

# Illinois Master Gardener **IMAGINE**

INFORMATION ♦ NEWS ♦ EDUCATION



*Volume 14 No. 4  
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## COORDINATORS' COMMENTS

### Beautification or Education? Which should MGs be doing?

Summer is here and Master Gardener projects are in full swing. Many of you are busy in the garden "Helping Others Learn to Grow". I was recently told "I wish the state would loosen up their requirements because all we Master Gardeners want to do is garden". Well I am very sorry but if you joined this program to just plant, water and weed - you are in the wrong organization. I want to emphasize that your projects MUST have an educational component. For example-if your volunteer work is to only plant and maintain containers in your city center or at the library- you are NOT following the mission of our program. Garden clubs plant and maintain gardens- University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners teach others how to garden. We are an educational institution and that will continue to be our mission in the future. I am truly proud that nearly all of our volunteer projects include educational components such as teaching kids how to garden or using the idea garden for workshops or demonstrating how to compost- so most of you are really on the right track. Thanks to all of you! Unfortunately- a few projects in some counties are still based on beautification only.... even though I have been stressing that projects must be educational since 2000.

It is perfectly normal when you establish a community or school garden that you as Master Gardeners will need to assist with the plant selection, original planting, soil preparation, garden set-up etc. At the point where the garden is established, you should have taught others- students, school staff, parents, community garden organizers, other volunteer groups or community members to take over maintenance of the garden. Your assistance may be needed in the future to help rejuvenate the garden or suggest new plantings and this is fine. However, if it is 3 years after you helped to establish the garden and your Master Gardener organization is still watering and weeding and doing all the maintenance for the garden- you are "providing a labor source"- and this is not a Master Gardener job.

Please also remember that your Master Gardener groups are not expected to pay for or maintain hardscapes on another organization's property. If you are doing a therapy garden at the nursing home for example- the facility should not expect Extension or Master Gardeners to buy trees or benches, construct walls, hardscapes or pergolas. If the facility could provide funding and labor- certainly Master Gardeners can provide the expertise and some assistance in construction. Extension is not financially able to replace trees lost to disease or other causes, or replace damaged or aging hardscapes.

The state advisory committee which reviews the mini-grant applications has chosen not to fund projects which do not have an educational component. They have also chosen not to fund items such as technology, permanent building structures, space rental, honorariums, utilities or mechanically driven equipment. State awards will also not be given to projects (or individuals) which only provide beautification without an educational component.

Thanks for your excellent volunteer work. I hope to see many of you at annual conference and the awards banquet.  
Monica David, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Coordinator

### **NEW MG MANUAL TO BE RELEASED IN 2014- CURRENT MANUAL NOW 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 200 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 etc.. I am 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>



## **MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE 2013** **SEPTEMBER 19-21, MOLINE ILLINOIS**

Join us in Moline at the i wireless Center for Master Gardener conference 2013. The conference will feature two keynote speakers, lots of breakout sessions, exciting garden tours (all day and half-day), the annual Master Gardener awards banquet, the annual silent auction (with proceeds to fund MG mini-grants) and a Mississippi river boat cruise on the Celebration Belle.

### **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

**Check the conference website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/conference2013/>**

### **HOTEL SLEEPING ROOMS**

A block of sleeping rooms has been reserved at the adjacent Radisson on John Deere Commons. Conference room rate is \$99 for a single, double or triple or \$114 for a King suite. Breakfast is included in the room rate. Reserve your room by August 18, 2013 to receive the conference rate. 309-764-1000.

### **MISSISSIPPI RIVER BOAT CRUISE**

As part of the 2013 conference, attendees can join the fun Thursday evening, September 19 by signing up for the evening dinner cruise on the Celebration Belle. Celebration River Cruises is a family owned and run business. On the cruise we will view beautiful scenery as we travel the Mississippi and enjoy a fabulous prime rib and chicken (3 entree) buffet. After dinner, enjoy the fully stocked bars and dance to the sounds of the Celebration River Cruises band. There will be an additional fee for the cruise which will include bus transportation to and from the Radisson Hotel.

### **2013 MASTER GARDENER SILENT AUCTION**

We need your help to make the 10th 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 Rock Island County Extension Office or bring it to the conference registration desk at the Radisson but please contact Monica David at [modavid@illinois.edu](mailto:modavid@illinois.edu) BEFORE THE CONFERENCE to let her know WHAT YOU WILL BE DONATING.

### **CONFERENCE TOURS- THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19**

#### **ALL DAY TOURS (includes lunch)**

Day Trip 1: Miss Effies Country Garden and Cedar Ridge Winery (bus leaves 8:30 am & returns ~4:30 pm)

Day Trip 2: Arrowhead Ranch, John Deere and Company, Butterworth and Wiman Homes (bus leaves 8 am & returns ~4:30 pm)

Day Trip 3: Bickelhaupt Arboretum and 2 private gardens (bus leaves 8:30 am & returns ~ 4:30 pm)

#### **MORNING TOURS (includes lunch)**

A1: Meyers Landscape and Design and Meyers Tree Farm (bus leaves 8 am & returns ~12:30 pm)

A2: Riverside Gardens, Quad City Botanical Garden and Mississippi River Visitor Center (bus leaves 7:45 am & returns ~12:30 pm)

#### **AFTERNOON TOURS**

B1: Isabel Bloom and Vander Veer Park (bus leaves 1 pm & returns ~ 4:30 pm)

B2: Intouch Adult Day Care and Wallace's Garden center (bus leaves 1 pm & returns ~4:30 pm)

All buses leave from the Radisson on John Deere Commons. For information on the tour stops visit the conference website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/conference2013/>



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Keynote speaker **Denise Wiles Adams** is an expert on garden history and has written two books- *Restoring American Gardens: An Encyclopedia of Heirloom Ornamentals* and her new book which was just released- *American Home Landscapes 1620--2000: A Design Guide to Creating Period Garden Styles*. Denise is a frequent writer for publications such as *Fine Gardening*, *Herbalist*, *Perennial Plants* and *Country Gardens*. Denise's informative lectures focus on perennials of the past for the present and restoring American Gardens. She will share her ideas on garden history as well as the knowledge she has gleaned from her collection of hundreds of antique nursery catalogs.

The conference will also feature a second keynote speaker- Horticulturist, Garden Writer and Director of the Planting Fields Arboretum in New York- **Vincent Simeone**. Vincent studied with Dr. Michael Dirr and Dr. Allan Armitage. He has spoken to many groups nationwide and has appeared on several garden shows including Martha Stewart Living and HGTV. Since 2005 he has published 4 books: *Great Flowering Landscape Shrubs*, *Great Flowering Landscape Trees*, *Great Landscape Evergreens* and *The Wonders of the Winter Landscape*. His favorite subjects for talks are woody plants and historic landscape preservation.



## CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20

9:00 a.m.–10:15 am. Keynote by Vinnie Simeone- “Great Gardens of the World”

10:45- Noon Concurrent Classes

1. Vinnie Simeone- “Historic Landscape Preservation”
2. Mark Dwyer- “Vertical Gardening”
3. Jan Powers- “The Herbs and Plants of Beatrix Potter’s World”
4. Mike Coyne-Logan- “River Clean-Up”

1:30 p.m.-2:45 pm Concurrent Classes

1. Mark Dwyer- “Ferns and Mosses”
2. Sam Wortman- “Urban Agriculture Research”
3. Tim Gruner- “Patterns in Nature that Inspire Japanese Gardens and the Connections between Garden and Architecture”
4. Stephanie Porter - “Plant Clinic Year in Review”
5. Kathryn Newman- “Gardening in Miniature”

3:15 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Concurrent Classes

1. Diane Blazek- “All-America Selections: Cultivate the Past, Nurture the Present and Plant the Future”
2. Scott Carlson- “Proper Tree Pruning, Less is not More”?
3. David Schneider- “New Trends in Hardscapes”
4. Jeff Hawes- “Organic or Conventional?”

### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21

9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Keynote by Denise Adams – “American Home Landscapes”

10:45 a.m.-Noon Concurrent Classes

1. Jeff Epping- “Sustainable Gardens: Creating and Maintaining a Gravel Garden”
2. Jim Schmidt- “Horticulture Judging: And the ribbon goes to.....” (maximum of 20)
3. James Brannock- “Bees”
4. Michael Wiant- “Ancient American Gardeners”
5. Kathryn Newman- “Gardening in Miniature”

1:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m. Concurrent Classes

1. Denise Adams- “Made Wild by Pompous Catalogs from Florists and Seedman...”
2. Jeff Epping- “Sustainable Gardens: Designs and Plants for Greener Gardens”
3. Vera Blevins- “Bats”
4. LaManda Joy - “Chicago Victory Gardens: Yesterday and Tomorrow”

**Full class descriptions and speaker biographies are posted on the conference website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/conference2013/>**

## NEW GREEN ROOF ONLINE COURSE



## ILLINOIS-INDIANA SEA GRANT LOGO AND SLOGAN DESIGN CONTEST

Illinois- Indiana Sea Grant needs your creativity! Take action and help prevent the spread of aquatic invaders by creating a new logo and slogan that will help prevent the release of water garden and aquarium plants and animals into natural waterways. Human introduced aquatic plants and animals can become invasive and threaten the ecosystems, economy and health of our coastal waters. Contest participants can submit their original designs on Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant's Facebook page July 1st-22nd and vote on their favorite designs July 23rd-29th. Please see Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant's Facebook page at facebook.com/ILINseagrant after July 1st for official contest rules and prize details.

Course Instructor:



Dr. Jennifer Bouselot

Connect with us:



### \*\*\*NEW AgOnline Course- HORT 193F- Green Roof Design, Installation and Management Course Dates: September 3rd to October 29, 2013

ISU AgOnline is offering a new one credit course exploring green roof design, installation and management. Green roofs are a technology that can help solve a multitude of environmental concerns. The design, installation, and maintenance of green roofs is a complex process that requires an interdisciplinary approach to effectively complete.

This course will cover:

- the major environmental benefits of green roofs
- the components required to build a sustainable green roof
- the timeline required for installation
- the common pitfalls associated with maintenance

[View Course Promotional Video](#)

Register Today:

- For one academic credit: \$496.50 -- [Register Here](#)
- Non-credit option: \$150 -- [Register Here](#)

For a complete listing of all our fall online courses visit our website: [www.agonline.iastate.edu](http://www.agonline.iastate.edu)

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## 2014 ITALY TRIP FOR MASTER GARDENERS

The spring 2014 Italian Garden trip which opened for booking this May filled in 4 days. I have never had such a response to a tour before! Because of the overwhelming popularity of this trip, we have placed names on a waiting list and are contemplating running a second trip in mid-September 2014. The trip will only be held if we have a minimum of 20 travelers sign up. The proposed trip will have the same basic itinerary and garden stops as the May trip. If you wish to be put on the waiting list for fall 2014 please contact Robyn at [rgulstrom@comcast.net](mailto:rgulstrom@comcast.net). You may also call Robyn after July 1 at 269-629-9248. The full trip itinerary is on the Master Gardener website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/events/default.cfm>

The "Gardens of Venice, Lake Como and Tuscany" fall trip will begin in Venice where we will tour the secret gardens in the city and have time to visit the historical sites of Venice. Two lovely gardens outside of Venice are Villa Emo and Villa Barbarigo Pizzoni Ardemani. Next the group will depart for Verona- home of the star crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet- and visit Giardino Guisti and Villa Allegri Arvedi on the way. Lake Como in the Italian Alps is truly one of the most beautiful spots on earth. The group will visit several outstanding gardens near the lake- Villa Carlotta, Villa Monastero and Villa Melzi. Travel continues on to Tuscany and the beautiful city of Florence. Enjoy the Tuscany gardens of Villa Gamberaia, Villa Le Balze and Villa Chigi Cetinale. Our group will visit Castelo Brolio to sample wine made at this lovely old winery. A side trip to Lucca to stroll the lovely village and visit Villa Reale Marlia is up next. The trip will finish with free time to shop and enjoy the cathedral, the museums and the historic sites of Florence. We won't forget to sample the wonderful gelato too! Bring your walking shoes as the trip will include lots of walking- in some case on stone streets.

## STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OPENING FOR A MG FROM EC REGION

The State Master Gardener advisory committee is looking for a Master Gardener volunteer from the EC part of the state. The search is restricted to MGs from Units 12, 14, 17, 19, 20 and 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 via web based technology. 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 the EC units mentioned above), 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 **September 1**.

## “GROWING TOMATOES WITH IPM FOR HOME GARDENERS” ONLINE MODULE

Here is a great educational opportunity for Master Gardeners for CEUs and one that will provide valuable information to answer client questions about tomato problems. This is an online module which can be done on your own time schedule. The course includes recommendations on planting, diseases, insects and abiotic tomato problems for home gardeners. Cost is \$10. Developed by the North Central Consumer Hort Working Group and the NCIPM Center. Upon completion, participants receive a certificate that can count towards continuing education for Extension Master Gardeners.

Visit <http://campus.extension.org/enrol/index.php?id=749>.

## HUNGRY PESTS WEBSITE

The USDA has created a great website to spread the word about invasive pests. It has great information about insect pests, how to ID them, signs and symptoms, interactive tracking maps to see how they have spread across the country and much more including great pictures. There are state maps which show current quarantines as well as if the state has suitable habitat for newly emerging pest threats. There is an explanation of the current threats, how to report a pest and what citizens can do to help leave hungry pests behind. A great website!

<http://www.hungrypests.com/>

*Educate Inspire Connect*



*Save the Date!*

**June 25-28, 2014**

Waterfront Convention Center | Bettendorf, Iowa

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Extension and Outreach

## 2014 UPPER MIDWEST MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE

The Upper Midwest Conference planning committee (from Iowa State University) is working diligently to put together an outstanding conference for regional Master Gardeners next year. The conference is just a year away! Time to start the countdown!

The dates are June 25-28, 2014 and the conference theme is “Growing Along the River”. The location is the Waterfront Convention Center in Bettendorf, IA.

The general outline of the program will be:

Wed. June 25 – Welcome reception and vendor show

Thurs. June 26 – Keynote presentation, classes, and vendor show

Fri. June 27 – Tours (some will be half day with additional class options at the convention center); dinner off-site

Sat. June 28 – State Search for Excellence breakfast, classes, silent auction, closing keynote

Save the date! More information to follow.

## HONEY BEE HEALTH REPORT BY USDA AND EPA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a comprehensive scientific report on honey bee health on May 2, 2013. The report states that there are multiple factors playing a role in honey bee colony declines, including parasites and disease, genetics, poor nutrition, and pesticide exposure.

The two agencies jointly released the report by a National Stakeholders Conference on Honey Bee Health that convened in October, 2012. The conference was developed by federal researchers and managers, along with Pennsylvania State University. It was convened to synthesize the current state of knowledge regarding the primary factors that scientists believe have the greatest impact on managed bee health.

### KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

#### Parasites and Disease Risks:

The parasitic Varroa mite is recognized as the major factor underlying honey bee colony loss in the U.S. and other countries. There is widespread resistance to the chemicals beekeepers use to control mites within the hive. New virus species have been found in the U.S. and several of these have been associated with Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

#### Increased Genetic Diversity Needed:

U.S. honeybee colonies need increased genetic diversity. Genetic variation improves bees' thermoregulation (the ability to keep body temperature steady even if the surrounding environment is different), disease resistance, and worker productivity. Honey bee breeding should emphasize traits such as hygienic behavior that confer improved resistance to Varroa mites and diseases (such as American foulbrood).

#### Poor Nutrition:

Nutrition has a major impact on individual bee and colony longevity. A nutrition-poor diet can make bees more susceptible to harm from disease and parasites. Bees need better forage and

a variety of plants to support colony health. Federal and state partners should consider actions affecting land management to maximize available nutritional forage to promote and enhance good bee health and to protect bees by keeping them away from pesticide-treated fields.

#### Improved Collaboration and Information Sharing:

Best Management Practices associated with bees and pesticide use exist but are not widely or systematically followed by members of the crop-producing industry. There is a need for informed and coordinated communication between growers and beekeepers and effective collaboration between stakeholders on practices to protect bees from pesticides. Beekeepers emphasized the need for accurate and timely bee kill incident reporting, monitoring, and enforcement.

#### Additional Research on Pesticide Risks:

The most pressing pesticide research questions relate to determining actual pesticide exposures and effects of pesticides to bees in the field, and the potential for impacts on bee health and productivity of whole honey bee colonies.

The report will provide important input to the Colony Collapse Disorder Steering Committee led by the USDA, EPA, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The Colony Collapse Steering Committee was formed in response to a sudden and widespread disappearance of adult honey bees from beehives, which first occurred in 2006. The Committee will consider the report's recommendations and update the CCD Action Plan which will outline major priorities to be addressed in the next 5-10 years. This will serve as a reference document for policy makers, legislators, and the public, and it will help coordinate the federal strategy in response to honey bee losses.

To view the report, which represents the consensus of the scientific community studying honey bees, visit: <http://www.usda.gov/documents/ReportHoneyBeeHealth.pdf>.

Modified by Phil Nixon from an EPA and USDA Press Release

