

Illinois Master Gardener

IMAGINE

INFORMATION ♦ NEWS ♦ EDUCATION



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May-June 2013

COORDINATORS' COMMENTS

April 21- 27 was National Volunteer Week. Sponsored by Points of Light, National Volunteer Week was established in 1974 and has grown exponentially each subsequent year, with thousands of volunteer projects and special events scheduled throughout the week. I would love to highlight some of your Volunteer Week activities and recognition on my Illinois Master Gardener blog. You can access the blog at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/eb247/index.html> You can also email me your stories to share at modavid@illinois.edu.

I want to personally thank each one of you Master Gardeners for all that you do to make the Illinois Master Gardener Program a success. You give your time, talents, and creativity, and provide science-based, research information that improves the natural environment and the lives of our adult and youth citizens. THANK YOU!!

One note to remind you of protocol as the garden season begins. Please remember to wear your nametag when you are out in your communities volunteering. Remember to tell the public that you are a "University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener from XXX County". This is the proper way to refer to yourself rather than saying "I am a XXXX County Master Gardener." Little things do matter and this may seem insignificant but it is important to identify yourself with University of Illinois Extension. Please also remember that the title "University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener" is only to be used when you are conducting pre-approved unpaid educational programming. You may not use your title in any form of commercial advertisement or endorse any product or place of business. However, it is perfectly acceptable to place your credentials such as University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener on your personal resume. I have been asked this question many times- and it seems confusing to many but our policy has always been to allow Master Gardeners to include their title on their professional resume. However, the title "Master Gardener" is not bestowed for life, so we request that once you leave the program you cease to use the title. You may however call yourself a Master Gardener alumnus and we hope you do!

Monica David, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Coordinator

MASTER GARDENER MANUAL PHOTO CONTEST

The Extension Horticulture team- educators and specialists is now working on a minor revision of the Master Gardener manual. The new manual will be published later this year- just in time for 2014 trainings. The revised manual will include an Organic Gardening chapter as well as updates and minor corrections to the existing chapters.

As part of this revision, our graphic designer will be giving the manual a "new look". We are conducting a photo contest to pick the new cover photo. I am asking Master Gardeners to submit pictures of "Master Gardeners at work". This should be a photo of Master Gardeners involved in any educational role with the public. Pictures will be judged by the state advisory committee in consultation with the designer. The county which submits the winning photograph will receive a prize of \$500. The state office will reimburse the county office for Master Gardener project expenses up to a maximum of \$500.

All photos must meet this criteria: 1. have a signed photo release on file for each person in the picture 2. be a very high quality color image (no blurry or faded images accepted). Photographers should use the highest resolution available on their camera and with the least compression 3. the image must be vertical rather than horizontal 4. JPG or RAW files are needed. The ideal image would be at least 2700 pixels wide by 3450 high.

The winner will need to give us written permission to use the file unconditionally as the picture will become the property of the University of Illinois. **All photos must be submitted electronically to modavid@illinois.edu no later than June 25th.**



MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE 2013 SEPTEMBER 19-21, MOLINE ILLINOIS

Join us in Moline at the iWireless 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 will open on or around June 1. Check the conference website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/> after that date.

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. Joe Schadler started the excursion boat business in Davenport, IA in 1984 and in 1998, the Schadlers purchased the Celebration Belle, the largest non-gaming excursion riverboat in the Upper Mississippi River. 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. The onboard entertainment plays a wide variety of music from yesterday and today featuring genres such as Country and Rock 'N Roll... and yes they take requests! Also, be sure to go topside and enjoy the evening air gazing at the stars and stroll our decks to meet and greet other Master Gardeners. 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 BEFORE THE CONFERENCE to let her know WHAT YOU WILL BE DONATING.

THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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.

MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE 2013

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 will be posted on the conference website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/> Conference registration will open on or around June 1.

ARBNET.ORG

ArbNet is an online, interactive community of arboreta that supports the common purposes and interests of tree-focused public gardens. ArbNet facilitates the exchange of information and the sharing of knowledge, experience, and other resources to help arboreta achieve their goals. The ultimate goal of ArbNet and its member arboreta is to encourage the planting and conservation of trees and other plants for a greener, healthier, and more beautiful world. ArbNet is sponsored and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum, in cooperation with the American Public Gardens Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International. The site includes the Morton Register which is a comprehensive list and database of arboreta and other public gardens that have a substantial focus on woody plants. The purpose of the Morton Register is to identify all of the organizations that collect and display trees, shrubs, and other woody plants for the benefit of the public, science, and conservation. Accreditation is available for arboreta through this Register. Arboreta are accredited at different levels depending on degrees of development, capacity, and professionalism. The site also includes news, resources, advice and an online forum with arboretums.

MIDWEST CLIMATE WATCH LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Late season spring freeze events can have devastating impacts on growing vegetation, including irreversible damage, reduced yields, and other costly impacts. For instance, in 2007, an unseasonably warm March followed by a cold snap in early April across the Midwest and Eastern United States led to \$2 billion in damage to fruit crops, forage crops, winter wheat, as well as home gardens and landscapes.

The National Weather Service (NWS) issues freeze warnings to warn the public during the growing season when there is the potential for freezing temperatures. During the 2007 event, NWS communication was good overall, but it was recommended in a post-event assessment that the NWS issue freeze warnings based on potential impacts to agriculture, horticulture, nurseries, and home gardens rather than calendar dates. In addition, it was encouraged that the NWS develop and utilize ties with Land Grant Extension, state climatologists, USDA personnel, and other relevant partners to determine when freezing temperatures are a threat and to gather quality, detailed post-event impact information.

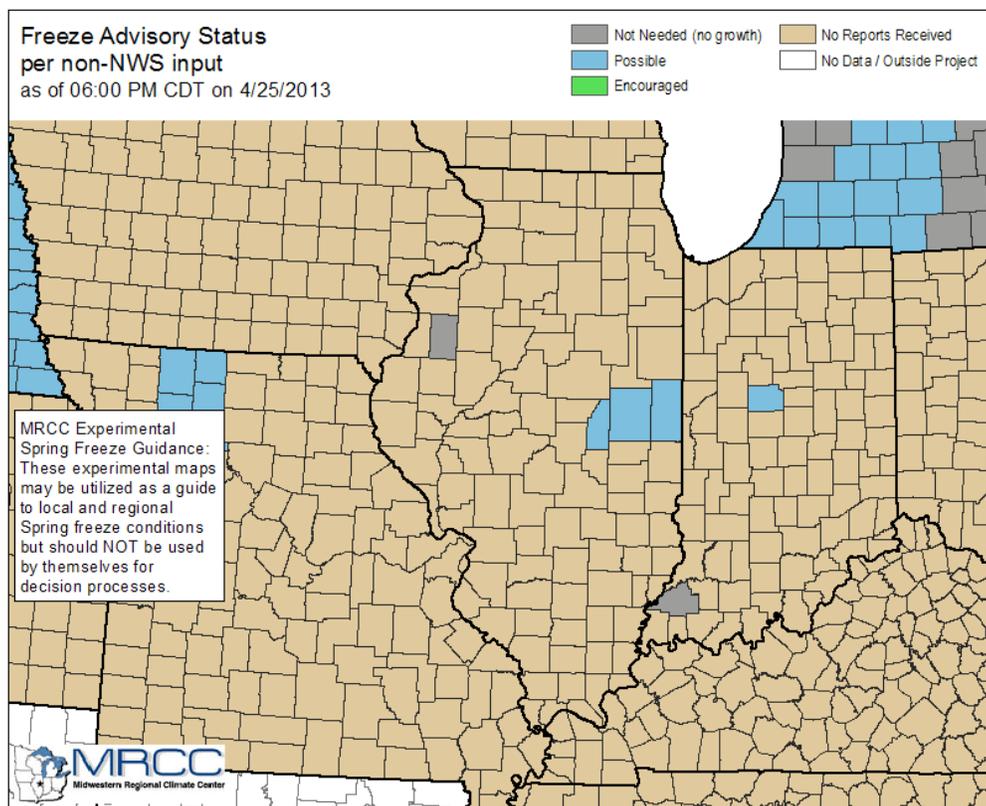
Given their existing partnerships in the region, the NWS has asked the Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC) to coordinate this effort to bring together the necessary partners to provide guidance on whether or not to issue freeze warnings during the spring season when vegetation may be threatened by late season freezing temperatures and to collect post-event impact information. Partners in this large-scale project, which spans from Wyoming to Ohio and from Tennessee up to the Canadian border, includes NWS offices, state climatologists, Land Grant Extension, commercial growers, master or home gardeners, and other University and federal partners.

To coordinate this effort, the MRCC has established an email listserv and a website (<http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/cliwatch/NWS>), which has guidance tools for NWS forecasters to consider when determining if freeze warnings are necessary. This project is seeking additional members for the listserv who may be interested in providing local insight into the vulnerability of early growing season vegetation to late season freeze events. Members of the listserv provide local information using the Freeze Guidance Form on the main project webpage, which automatically updates the Freeze Advisory Status maps on the webpage. In addition, the MRCC will soon launch the Freeze Impact Form, where members can report any impacts that resulted from late season freeze events.

NWS forecasters are indeed using the Freeze Advisory Status maps to guide the issuance of freeze warnings in the region. However, the maps are only as useful as the input received, so the MRCC would greatly appreciate additional members that are able to provide local insight.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the listserv and contributing local information or have questions about the project, please send an email to the MRCC Extension Climatologist, Molly Woloszyn, at mollyw@illinois.edu.

The pilot of this project launched in spring 2013, but this coordinated effort will continue in the fall season as well, when early season freeze events put vegetation at risk.



IMPATIENS DOWNY MILDEW

Many plants are susceptible to downy mildew pathogens, which are usually not considered to be major disease threats. However, downy mildew of impatiens (*Plasmopara obducens*), a new disease to Illinois, is a major problem for all cultivars of impatiens walleriana, according to University of Illinois plant clinic diagnostic outreach specialist Stephanie Porter. "When this disease first became a problem in the U.S., it was seen only in the nursery and had not yet established itself in the landscape," she said. "In 2011, we began receiving reports that it was a problem in landscapes in the Chicago area."

Based on the reports of impatiens downy mildew infection and weather conditions in Illinois the last two years, Porter believes that outbreaks are likely to continue in the Chicago area because many landscapers and gardeners plant impatiens in the same area every year. They often find that if they have an outbreak of downy mildew one year, they will have another the following year. However, it is more difficult to make predictions



about this disease in downstate Illinois. "We do know that we have had conditions favorable for downy mildew infections in Illinois in 2011 and 2012," Porter said.

Plant or finish growers of impatiens may have an increased risk for downy mildew infection if:

- Impatiens production is at the same time that impatiens is growing in the landscape. This is not likely in Illinois because plant production is during March or April.
- Impatiens plugs or liners are from an area where infected impatiens are currently growing or where impatiens downy mildew has been reported in the landscape. This could be a problem if plugs are grown in southern states and shipped here for finishing.
- Impatiens plants are growing in an area where impatiens downy mildew was confirmed in the landscape in 2011 or 2012. This could cause problems for the finish grower or end user.

Porter said that gardeners who find downy mildew should remove all of the diseased plant material to avoid further infection in the garden or in neighbors' gardens. However, it may be difficult to rid the planting area of this disease because the pathogen can remain in the soil.

There are some fungicides available for use against this disease; however, they are mostly used in commercial settings for plant

protection. Fungicides will not "cure" this disease. Several protectant fungicide applications are required, so they usually are not an economical or a feasible choice for homeowners. I have recently been asked the question: 'If I had downy mildew of my impatiens the last two years, should I plant something else?' My answer is 'Yes,'" Porter said. She added that, if you are selling impatiens, be sure they are from a reputable and reliable grower.

"Growers are responding to the gardeners' requests for alternative shade-tolerant plants, so do not hesitate to ask what else you could offer in lieu of impatiens," advised Richard Hentschel, a U of I Extension horticulture educator.

Suggestions for alternative shade tolerant plants are available at: <http://flor.hrt.msu.edu/IDM/index.htm>.

For more information on downy mildew of impatiens, go to the following links:

<http://www.ballhort.com/pdf/ImpatiensDownyMildew-GrowerGuidelines.pdf>

<http://hyg.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=424>

<http://hyg.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=354>

To access the Master Gardener online training module on downy mildew go to: <http://mg.cropsci.illinois.edu/index.php>



NATIONAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

Registration is now open for the 2013 National Children and Youth Garden Symposium, hosted by AHS, in Denver Colorado July 11-13, 2013! Sponsors of the event include The Denver Botanic Gardens, The Gardens on Spring Creek, Denver Urban Gardens, and Cheyenne Botanic Gardens. Keynote presentations by Louisa Chawla, professor of Environmental Design at the University of Colorado; Marcia Eames-Sheavely, leader of the Cornell University Garden-Based Learning program and David Sobel, professor at Antioch University in NH. Pre and post tours include the Cheyenne Botanic Garden; Denver Urban Gardens and the Gardens on Spring Creek. Choose from over 35 break out sessions on various aspects of youth gardening. Early bird registration (before May 23) is \$305 for AHS members and \$350 for nonmembers. For more information or to register go to-<http://www.ahs.org/gardening-programs/youth-gardening/ncygs>

USA NATIONAL PHENOLOGY NETWORK

From Maine to Florida and Ohio to Arizona, Master Gardeners are partnering with the USA National Phenology Network to track plant and animal life cycle stages and their relationship to a changing environment. Phenology data, as you may know, is not only an important indicator for understanding how species are responding to a changing climate, but also an important tool many Extension Educators and Specialists can use, and do use, for outreach and their own research. Phenology informs integrated pest management protocols, forest habitat conservation and restoration, species bloom times, landscape design, and habitat garden development.

The USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) sponsors a nationwide citizen science program called Nature's Notebook. Nature's Notebook is an online database where phenological observations can be recorded and later viewed for research purposes. Both citizens and scientists are contributing observations and using the data to inform local and global research. Using phenology as a tool, Master Gardeners can learn how your favorite plant species are responding to seasonal change, learn critical thinking skills useful for MG help desk management, engage communities with your local program, and demonstrate how phenology informs many of the topics covered in your training program.

For more information on how Master Gardeners are contributing phenology observations to Nature's Notebook and how Extension Educators and Specialists are applying phenology to their program areas, visit our Phenology and Cooperative Extension landing page. You can read about programs in Arizona, Florida, Ohio, and Maine. I've incorporated it into my training program as a teaching tool and developed some science questions for the Master Gardeners to answer in our demonstration garden. Questions include tracking the influence of winter frost events on plant leaf out times, understanding how plants in our xeriscape garden respond to seasonal rains vs. irrigation. And understanding more about pollinator and plant interactions. We also have a youth garden and partner with our 4-H program to teach students about the importance of life cycle events. I can also download all of the data in an excel file for my gardens to see who has contributed (if I would like to do so) or view them in the USA-NPN Visualization tools. ORI can compare my data to other sites and species across the US, for multiple years.

The USA-NPN also has special 2013 Seasonal Campaigns, sponsored by scientists interested in using crowd-sourced, citizen science data, to expand their reach. Take a look at this year's campaigns here: [Connect Regionally](#) and consider participating!

If you haven't seen the national eXtension Master Gardener blog featuring two of my recent Master Gardener graduates, check that out here: [Nature's Notebook and Master Gardeners: A tool for all seasons](#). Edy and Pat will be updating the blog quarterly, so stay tuned for a new entry at the end of this month. Thanks to Karen Jeannette at eXtension for allowing them to share!

For more information on how you can participate with your Master Gardeners, information on a state-wide presentation, or using Nature's Notebook to answer a local research question, contact me or my colleague, LoriAnne Barnett, Education Coordinator for the USA-NPN. We'd love to know if you are also interested in using Nature's Notebook for science and outreach.

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IMPORTANT DATES

May 4: Macon County Master Gardener Plant Sale, Macon County Fairgrounds, Decatur. 9 am to 2 pm. Offerings for the day include: a large selection of annuals, Master Gardener shared perennials, over 200 hosta varieties, vegetable plants, and herbs. A bake sale and food items will also be available. Don't miss out on this annual event to support local Master Gardener projects and scholarships. For more information, please contact the Macon County Extension Office at 217.877.6042.

June 9: Macon County Garden Walk, 3 pm to 7 pm. Seven beautiful gardens will be featured in the 2013 Garden Walk. Included in this year's displays of gardens will be a Koi pond, terracing, a unique raised/enclosed vegetable garden, water falls, grafted trees, pergolas, a gazebo, a Country Chic design complete with chickens and a workshop incorporated into a strolling garden. Tickets will be available from Master Gardeners, at select Decatur garden-related businesses, and at the Macon County Extension office beginning in mid-May. Tickets will be \$10.00 in advance or \$12.00 the day of the Garden Walk. For ticket information or questions, call the Macon County Extension Office, at 217-877-6042.

July 9 and 10: Teaching and Learning with Monarch Butterflies, Niabi Zoo, Coal Valley. 8:30 am to 4 pm. This is a 2 day teacher workshop combining classroom and field experiences. Each participant receives: Hands-on instruction by experienced teachers; Rearing cages, books, posters, DVDs and other essential materials; Strategies for butterfly gardens and "Monarch Parades"; Inquiry-based science activities for all abilities; Activities for Mexican/pre-Hispanic culture, history and Spanish language; Distance learning projects with schools in Canada/Mexico/California and more. This workshop is open to formal educators as well as non-formal educators such as Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, outdoor educators and butterfly enthusiasts. Registration is \$110. More details at <http://www.monarchteachernetwork.org/> For Monarch Teachers Network questions call or e-mail Brian Hayes; bhayes@eirc.org 856-582-7000 X 110 To register go to <https://webs.extension.uiuc.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=7667>

July 11 and 12: Voices From the Land, Niabi Zoo, Coal Valley. 8:30 am to 4 pm. The Voices from the Land project and this workshop (for teachers, pre-k to 12, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners and other adults) is an exploration and celebration of oral and written language... of natural science, art, performance and technology. Taught by experienced teachers, workshop participants experience all aspects of a Voices project. They learn strategies for connecting children to local landscapes... fostering a love for the natural world. In a Voices project, participants use art concepts and skills to create art

from natural materials. They use digital technologies to document and share their art. They use communication skills... both oral and written... to create, edit and publish poetry. They can layout, design and publish a full-color book of their art and poetry... or design full-color posters showcasing their work. Registration fee is \$110. To register go to <https://webs.extension.uiuc.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=7669> or call 309-756-9978

July 11-13: National Children and Youth Gardening Symposium. Denver, CO. <http://www.ahs.org/gardening-programs/youth-gardening/>

July 13: DeKalb County Master Gardener Gardenwalk and Plant Sale, DeKalb County Center for Agriculture, 1350 W. Prairie Drive, Sycamore. Eight unique gardens have been chosen for this year's event. The BIG plant sale will include a Garden Boutique and a Master Gardener Helpdesk. Tickets for the Gardenwalk, as always, will be \$10 in advance or \$12 on the day of the event. Admittance to the Plant Sale is free. For more information call the Extension office at 815-758-8194 or visit our website at extension.illinois.edu/go/dekalbgardenwalk

July 13: McHenry County Master Gardener Gardenwalk, The walk begins at Mchenry County College (MCC) in Crystal Lake and visits nine gardens. 9 am to 4 pm. Travel thru north-eastern McHenry County and discover public and private gardens that include intimate city gardens to organic farmettes. Take advantage of the educational opportunities offered at the Master Gardener demonstration garden at MCC. Co-sponsored by the MCC and McHenry County Master Gardeners. Tickets are \$12 through June 28 or \$17 after June 28th. Tickets may be purchased by calling the MCC office at 815-455-8588 or at the garden on the day of the event. Visit www.mchenry.edu/gardenwalk

September 7-14: International Master Gardener Conference. The conference is a 7 day Alaskan cruise which departs from Seattle and cruises to Juneau, Glacier Bay, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria, British Columbia. Classes and lectures will be held on the ship and tours will be offered to scenic and wildlife areas as well as gardens such as Butchart Gardens in Victoria. Deadline for registration is June 24. <http://www.uaex.edu/imgc2013/Default.htm>

September 19-21: Illinois Master Gardener Conference. iWireless Center and Radisson on John Deere Commons, Moline, IL. Registration open on or around June 1. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/>

IDNR RESOURCES

IDNR has workshops, resources and activity trunks for educators including Master Gardeners & Master Naturalists for educational programming. Here are a few examples that you may want to consider taking advantage of:

ENTICE 2013-2014 Workshop Registration is Open!

Beetles, raptors, butterflies, hummingbirds, pollinators and ecology are just some of the topics that will be represented at ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) workshops from the IDNR for the 2013-2014 school year. Visit <https://www.enticeworkshops.com> for details and to register. More information will be posted soon. ENTICE workshops provide educators with the chance to work with experts in the field, take part in hands-on activities and receive supplemental resources.

Illinois Trees: An Identification and Activity Book

Illinois Trees: An Identification and Activity Book publication from the IDNR has been reprinted. Order your copies at <http://dnr.state.il.us/teachkids> while supplies last!

Reserve IDNR Resources Trunks and Field Trip Packs for Spring

Visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/teach.htm> to access links to all of the resources trunks (Aquatic Illinois; Illinois Birds; Illinois Fossils; Illinois Insects and Spiders; Illinois' Invasive Species; Illinois Prairies; Illinois' State Symbols; Illinois Trees; Illinois Wild Mammals; and People and Animals from Illinois' Past) and the Field Trip Pack. Each Web page has the content list, appropriate grade levels and contact information for the lending sites. These hands-on units contain field guides, posters, books, equipment, specimens and many other items. Reserve a trunk or pack today!

New Video Podcasts

New video podcasts on Developing a Schoolyard Wildlife Habitat, the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant program and the Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant program have been added to the IDNR Division of Education Podcast Web page and iTunes. Visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/podcasts.htm>

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN'S WINDY CITY HARVEST

The Windy City Harvest project trains adults in sustainable horticulture and urban agriculture. It is delivered by the Chicago Botanic Garden in partnership with Richard J. Daley College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago. Windy City Harvest participants study at the Richard J. Daley College's Arturo Velasquez Institute at 2800 S. Western Avenue in Chicago and other sites. The locations provide state-of-the-art greenhouses, fully equipped classrooms, and high-quality outdoor plant production spaces.

Windy City Harvest provides instruction in urban agriculture best practices, develops collaborations that benefit communities, and produces high-value, nutritious produce that is sold at retail outlets and made available and affordable for local residents.

Young adult participants acquire hands-on experience with sustainable vegetable production and learn essential business skills, including planning, pricing, sales, and marketing. Students receive six months of hands-on instruction in greenhouse and outdoor growing practices, followed by a three-month paid internship. Up to five graduates will be hired by the Chicago Botanic Garden into five-month paid apprenticeships and will work toward an additional certificate in cool-weather growing techniques in hoopouses and greenhouses. After satisfactory completion of the curriculum and training requirements, students achieve certification in sustainable urban horticulture and urban agriculture. The certificate from the Richard J. Daley College readies participants for permanent employment in the new "green collar" jobs sector.

The growing demand from individuals, commercial establishments, and educational and healthcare institutions for sustainably grown local produce holds the promise of a bright future for Windy City Harvest and its graduates. Produce grown through program is available at these farmers' markets: Dill Pickle Food Co-op; Green Grocer Chicago; Pilsen Community Market; Chicago Botanic Garden Farmers Market; Concordia Place Sprouting Out Market and Faith in Place Winter Farmers Markets.

