

COORDINATORS COMMENTS

Well summer has finally arrived and pushed out the beautiful weather we enjoyed in May, June and July. As you are working on your summer projects don't forget to think about nominating them for a Master Gardener mini-grant or for an International Search for Excellence award. Information about the SFE can be found on page two of this newsletter.

Thank you for all the time you have spent this summer teaching others about gardening and horticulture.
Monica David, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Coordinator

MASTER GARDENERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH PROGRAM EVALUATION

Master Gardeners who trained in 2012 and 2013 are needed to do a brief evaluation of our program. This is an online survey to assess what you have learned as a result of your Master Gardener training and what you have shared with others in your volunteer work. The results of the survey will help us with reporting our impact to stakeholders and administrators and will be used for our annual Extension federal report. Your answers will be absolutely confidential. Your contact information will not be requested or recorded in this survey. Your participation is voluntary and you may decline to answer specific questions if you feel uncomfortable answering them. The results will be compiled in a summary form to protect confidentiality. The survey will only take about 15 minutes to complete.

This survey should only be completed by those who trained in 2012 and 2013. You may access the survey at this link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MGTM2014> The survey will remain open until November 3, 2014.

U OF I ARBORETUM HOSTA GARDEN DEDICATION

The gardens at the University of Illinois Arboretum serve as a living lab for U of I students, as well as a place of enjoyment and education for the public. The Arboretum's newly installed Hosta Garden has been designated as an American Hosta Society National Display Garden, thanks to a gift and volunteer hours from the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society.

The Hosta Garden was officially dedicated as a national display garden in early July in a ceremony held at the Japan House on the grounds of the Arboretum. The garden, located just north of Japan House along the Kari walkway, was installed as only the 18th national hosta display garden in North America and only the second in Illinois. In order to gain the national display designation, the garden must feature at least 100 different varieties of hosta. Barbara Schroeder, a former president and current treasurer of the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society, said the Hosta Garden at the Arboretum features over 200 hosta cultivars, with 127 varieties meeting the national registry requirements.

The Illinois Prairie Hosta Society and its members not only provided the financial backing for the garden, but also provided "countless hours of labor" to design, install, and care for the garden. The gift from the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society also provides the annual funding for a student intern to assist in maintaining the garden.

Mark Zilis, an alumnus of U of I's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) is the author of the *The Hostapedia* and the *Field Guide To Hostas*. Zilis was the featured speaker for the ceremony.
<http://arboretum.illinois.edu>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE AWARDS DUE JAN. 1, 2015

Search for Excellence (SFE) is the recognition program of Extension Master Gardener (EMG) volunteer work throughout the United States, Canada and South Korea. SFE has seven categories in which Master Gardeners can demonstrate their outstanding contributions to their communities. All SFE applications must show that significant learning took place, whether by the EMG or the general public with whom you are involved. Illinois MGs have had 7 first place and 4 second place winners in the past. The seven categories for projects are:

- Youth programs
- Demonstration Gardens
- Workshop or Presentation
- Community Service
- Innovative Projects
- Special Needs Audiences
- Research (Applied Scientific Methodology)

Project applications must be written by Master Gardeners but approved and submitted by staff members. Projects must be simple to replicate, have an educational component and show impact. In recent years reviewers have selected winners based heavily on evaluation and impacts. It is very important to include this in your application. You must also strictly adhere to the application instructions. If you think a project from your county might be eligible, first talk to your MG Coordinator or educator. You can find more information on how to submit your application at <http://mastergardener.unl.edu/imgc2015> Also contact Monica David via email modavid@illinois.edu Winners will be expected to provide a short (3 minute) talk about their project at the International EMG conference Sept. 22-25, 2015 in Council Bluffs, Iowa.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Organic Gardening Day, November 1, Holiday Inn, Urbana IL.

Keynote speaker, William Woys Weaver is an independent food historian and author of numerous books, including *Culinary Ephemera: An Illustrated History* and *Sauerkraut Yankees: Pennsylvania Dutch Food & Foodways*. He also directs the Keystone Center for the Study of Regional Foods and Food Tourism in Pennsylvania and maintains the Roughwood Seed Collection for heirloom food plants. Watch your e-mail for more information.

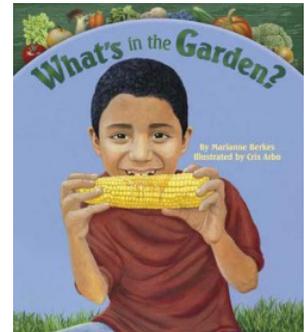
2015 University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener State Conference

Mark your calendar for September 17-19, 2015 for the Illinois Master Gardener conference to be held in O'Fallon, Illinois. This will be a 3 day conference with classes, tours and an awards banquet.

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER GROWING GOOD KIDS BOOK AWARDS

The Junior Master Gardener Program and the American Horticultural Society honor engaging, inspiring works of plant, garden and ecology-themed children's literature through the "Growing Good Kids - Excellence in Children's Literature Awards" Program. The 2014 Growing Good Kids Book Award Winner was unveiled July 18 at the AHS National Children & Youth Garden Symposium hosted in the Columbus, Ohio.

The 2014 winner was:
What's in the Garden?
by Marianne Berkes,
illustrated by Cris Arbo,
and targeted for ages 8-12.



The three winning books for 2013 were: "Our School Garden!" by Rick Swann and Christy Hale, "Molly's Organic Farm" by Carol Mainor and Trina Hunner and "First Peas to the Table" by Susan Grigsby and Nicole Tragell.

To nominate a book or see all of the past "Growing Good Kids-Excellence in Literature Awards" visit the Junior Master Gardener website at: <http://jmgkids.us/bookawards/>



2014 KOREAN MASTER GARDENER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The International Korean Master Gardener conference will be hosted by the GyeongGi-Do Agricultural Research and Extension Service, Republic of Korea (South Korea), which is near the city of Suwon, South Korea. The conference runs September 23 to 27.

Pre-conference activities include a Kitchen garden design contest and Kimchi making and tasting event on 9-23 and 9-24. The workshops and classes will be held on Sept. 25 and 26th and feature speakers from both the US and South Korea. A sampling of topics includes 'Community Gardening' by Lucy Bradley, N.C. state; 'Youth Gardening' by Candice Miller, U of I; 'Mentoring' by Lyda Moore from U. of Kentucky; 'Fine Whines of Delegation' and 'Using MGs in Plant Evaluation' by Pam Bennett from Ohio State. The Korean presenters include: Hyunai Kim speaking on 'Community Gardening in Korea'; Eunsuk Mun- 'Hort Expert Program'; Sangkyung Han- 'Urban Gardening'; and Wonsuk Lee on 'Vegetable Gardening' Check the website for a full listing of classes.



September 27th will feature a garden and food tour as well as tours of gardens created by Master Gardeners. The Korean Folk Village; Suwon Hwaseong Fortress- a UNESCO world heritage site; and a local arboretum (Mylhyanggi Arboretum) will also be featured.

If you wish to enjoy more of the country you may also take a post-conference tour to Jeju island This lovely tour features the volcanic peaks and lava valleys of the island along with Halla Arboretum & Gotjawal Forest. There is an additional cost for the post-conference tour.

The cost of the conference is \$260.50 (U.S. dollars). Rooms are reserved at the Hotel Ramada Dongtan for \$137.50 U.S. dollars per night. To register and for more information about the conference visit the conference website at: www.kmgic.org

SOMOHO- COMMUNITY GARDENING IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Local youth, mainly from Chiawelo in Soweto South Africa, spend their days engaged in environmental and cultural projects. Under that tutelage of Mandia Mentoora, a community activist who founded the organization, the kids engage in singing, dancing, painting, weaving, sculpturing, collecting waste and recycling, preparing food and gardening- planting trees and growing plants. The garden is located near the mountains (Soweto Mountain of Hope or Somoho) and on the property of a tower which was a former water reservoir.

The project was established in 1990 and called the Amandia Waste Creations. At that time it was dedicated to cleaning up the environment and recycling waste. Today it is one of the most vibrant community based organizations and boasts 300 members.



The mountain lies on a dry and rocky patch of elevated land but members have terraced it with rock and planted trees. The youth develop the gardens and the park for the community and keep the area clean. The water tower will soon be converted into a restaurant specializing in African cuisine. The area is used by sculptors and for music rehearsals. Other artists display skills in weaving baskets, making masks or bowls or creating wooden sculptures.

Apart from these community pursuits, Somoho attracts children under its "Children Loving Nature" campaign. The program fosters artistic creativity and environmental awareness. The children engage in activities such as drawing, dancing, pottering and gardening.

On Saturdays, all members of the organization gather to participate in a major activity under one theme. This might be "sports against crime" or "environmental clean-up". The Somoho fosters community and education in an area hard hit by poverty and the AIDS epidemic. The Soweto Mountain of Hope also brings hope and encouragement to this community.

PROMOTING HORTICULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES- A NATIONAL STUDY AND ACTION PLAN

With endorsement from four additional signing partners and over 150 endorsing partners, Longwood Gardens, the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS), FleishmanHillard, and Scholastic are teaming up to increase public awareness of the positive attributes of horticulture. We want our educators, public service workers, students with an aptitude for plant science or plant artistry, and the general public to view horticulture as a vital, viable, and vibrant career path. This task will require a concerted and coordinated effort on the part of all those within the horticulture sector; including industry, associations, organizations, public gardens, elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, and governmental agencies.

The First Step: The National Study

It begins with research. Phase One of the National Study entails a review of existing research already conducted with key stakeholders and collaborative discussions with leading partners to gain valuable insights into public perceptions and industry awareness of horticultural career paths. Phase Two will focus on the university and college sector, while Phase Three will reach out to the public sector. In particular, the goals of the National Study will be to determine awareness levels of horticulture, to understand the motivations and barriers to pursuing a career in horticulture, and to determine what might move potential students and their families in support of horticultural careers through words, images, and associations. The National Study will be comprehensive, multi-phased, and include interviews, surveys and focus groups with:

Internal stakeholders

ASHS leaders
Horticulture faculty at universities, colleges, technical schools
Industry leaders
Representatives from public gardens
Community groups
Current horticulturists

External stakeholders

Youth (K-12), particularly high school students
Teachers and school administrators (K-12)
Adults in the general public

The Movement: An Action Plan

Taking action is the next step. The Education Plan will integrate key horticultural concepts and the love of plants into the classroom and STEM/STEAM learning initiatives. The Marketing Plan will reach potential students, specifically providing an index of imagery, words, and phrases needed to attract students into 2- and 4-year college and university horticulture programs. The plan will also promote horticulture to the general public and will include existing work already being accomplished by the many organizations dedicated to spreading the word about horticulture. The Public Advocacy Plan will give life to the marketing plan, creating a movement to extend the vitality and love of horticulture, its essentiality through a very public, multi-year campaign.

Anticipated Outcomes

From the national study, and the education, marketing and public advocacy plans:

- Improve public perceptions of horticulture
- Develop tactics to ensure that horticulture is part of the national education curriculum
- Increase youth participation in NJHA, JMGsm, 4-H, and FFA
- Increase number of high school students in horticulture and plant sciences programs
- Increase number of horticulture students in 2-year and 4-year college and university programs
- Increase number of well-educated and well-trained horticulture employees

Timeline

2014 Conduct National Study Phases 1, 2, and 3.

2015 Disseminate report with key findings and recommendations.

Develop education plan, marketing plan, and public advocacy plan.

2016 Launch education plan, marketing plan, and public advocacy plan.

Visit <http://www.ashs.org/?page=PromotingHort> to join the movement and take the survey at growit.ashs.org.
from Mary H. Meyer, Ph.D. American Society of Horticultural Science, Chair, Board of Directors

2012 COMMUNITY GARDENING ORGANIZATION SURVEY

A survey done by the American Community Gardening Association and Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences in 2012 endeavored to answer questions about the state of community gardening in the early 21st century in the U.S. and Canada. Using a web-based format they were able to collect 445 responses from a wide geographical area. The study aimed to reveal the diversity within community gardening, changes in garden types since the 1998 survey, regions of gardening and challenges that led to garden closures.

The responses came from 445 community garden organizations in 50 states, Washington D.C., the U.S. Virgin Islands and 8 Canadian provinces. The survey also reflected gardening efforts from cities to suburbs to small towns and rural areas. Plot sizes ranged from 4 plots to 400 plots. Respondents were- 73% were from urban areas, 19% from the suburbs and 8 % were rural. The community gardens were managed by a wide range of organizations which managed from 1 garden to 31 gardens or more.

Survey results showed:

- 51% of the gardens have waiting lists
- 89% reported an increase in the number of gardens established in the last 5 years
- 81% of these new gardens were started by gardeners and 19% were initiated by an outside organization
- 1615 gardens had been lost in the last 5 years
- Lack of interest by gardeners (37%) was the most frequent cause, loss of land (30%), loss of funding for program staff (15%) and other (17%) were the causes of garden loss. It became clear that the reasons for garden loss are not isolated from each other-for instance, decreased interest by gardeners may lead landowners to revoke leases.
- In the 1998 survey- 88% of the gardens were on public land. The 2012 survey showed that 48% were on public land; 24% on private land, 18% on land owned by the organization and 4% on a land trust.
- The 2012 the survey used the following definition “land set aside for community members to grow edible or ornamental plants. The land may also include active or passive recreation space”. In this survey 43.76% were neighborhood gardens; 3.04% were school gardens; 9.65% were public housing gardens; 20.32% were church gardens; 5.96 %were therapeutic gardens and 3.36% were senior center gardens.
- The biggest challenges to community gardens were: 69.4% materials such as compost, water, soil; 62.2% getting new people involved; 61.3% keeping people involved long term; 59.2% gardening education; 56.3% recruiting volunteers; 54.3% funding; 52% collaborations with other organizations. The items which caused the least challenges were: 9.3% conflicts with the community; 17.6% intergenerational dialogue; 17.7% theft/vandalism and 22.4% cross-cultural dialogue.
- Support from local governments: 50% received support for access to materials or equipment; 47% received expedited access to public land; 29% received staff or office support; 23% received zoning help; 19% strategic plan assistance and 13% received no help from their local government.
- Many community gardens collaborate with partners. 80% listed Extension as a partner; 78% other governmental agencies; 75% funding agencies; 72% schools; 71% local service providers; 71% foodbanks; 70% faith based organizations; 70% colleges and universities; 69% local environmental organizations; 65% local garden clubs; 61% neighborhood associations and 30% national environmental organizations.



The survey confirms that community gardening is growing and that organizations are involved in a wide range of activities. There are many facets to the work and great collaborations exist among partners. There are also day-to-day and long term challenges that require collective work on successful strategies.

Survey published by the American Community Gardening Association, 2013.

JOHN BARTRAM- FATHER OF AMERICAN BOTANY

John Bartram was an early American botanist, horticulturist and explorer. Carolus Linnaeus said he was the “greatest natural botanist in the world”. He was born into a Quaker family in Darby Pennsylvania in 1699 and had no formal education as a child. However he had a lifelong interest in medicinal plants and was well read. His botanical career began when he bought 102 acres from Swedish settlers in 1728 and then systematically began gathering the most varied collection of North American plants in the world. Later he made contact with European botanists and gardeners interested in North American plants and developed his hobby into a thriving business.

Bartram traveled extensively in the colonies collecting plants. He traveled by boat, on horseback and by foot from new England to Florida. In 1743 he visited the shores of Lake Ontario and wrote *Observations on the Inhabitants, Climate, Soil, Rivers, Productions, Animals, and other Matters of Worthy Notice, made by Mr. John Bartram in his Travels from Pennsylvania to Onondaga, Oswego, and Lake Ontario, in Canada*. Bartram was one of the first practicing Linnaean botanists in North America. He forwarded his plant specimens to Linnaeus, Dillenius and Gronovirus and assisted Linnaeus’ student Pehr Kalm during his extended trip to America in 1748-1750.

John Bartram was particularly instrumental in sending seeds from the New World to European gardeners- many trees and flowers were first introduced into cultivation in Europe by this route. His work was aided by a fellow Quaker and member of the Royal Society, Peter Collinson. Bartrams early collections were sent via Collinson to fifty members of the British aristocracy as well as James Lee and John Busch, owners of the exotic Loddiges nursery in London. Shipments from Bartram usually contained 100 or more varieties of seeds and sometimes dried plant specimens. After being awarded the title ‘Kings Botanist’ in America by King George III, Bartram also sent seeds to Kew Gardens, and Oxford and Edinburgh botanic gardens.

Bartram is best known today for his discovery and introduction of a wide range of flowering trees and shrubs, including kalmia, rhododendron and magnolia species; for introducing the Venus flytrap into cultivation and the discovery of the Franklin tree *Franklinia alatamaha* in Georgia in 1765. His name is remembered in a genus of mosses *Bartramia* and in plants such as the North American serviceberry *Amelanchier bartramiana*. Bartram’s third son William became a famous botanist and botanical artist of his own right. The botanic garden John started grew through three generations of the family. John Bartram and his son William directly or indirectly taught almost all of the American early naturalists.

Bartram’s Garden and House as well as the Nursery (www.bartramsgarden.org) are located on Lindbergh Blvd. in Philadelphia. It is well worth a visit if you are in the area. Today Bartram’s Garden encompasses 45 acres of parkland, wildlife habitats, tidal wetlands, and a reclaimed meadow. The historic core is fundamentally a collection of Bartram plants – species collected, grown, and studied by the Bartram family from 1728 – 1850, with a focus on native plants of eastern North America, although a wide range of exotic plants were also under cultivation in each generation. Highlights of this garden include a *Franklinia alatamaha*; the oldest Ginkgo in America; Bartrams’ oak and a *Cladrastis kentuckea* (Yellowwood) from 1796.



For more information about the Bartram family visit <http://www.americanheritage.com>

