



Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,
News and Education

Vol. 3 No. 2
March-April 2002

Coordinators' Comments

In November of 2000, statewide policies were adopted for University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners. In conjunction with the policies, we included Master Gardener identification cards to be issued annually to certified active Master Gardeners. All Master Gardeners who were reported as active by their Extension Unit last year should have received one of these cards for 2001. The cards are valid for one year only, and are re-issued each year to certified, active Master Gardeners. In order to receive one of the cards for 2002 and future years you must have : 1) completed your Master Gardener internship, 2) reported at least 30 hours of volunteer service and 10 hours of continuing education for the previous calendar year to your Extension Unit Office (unless you just completed your internship), and 3) signed the Annual Volunteer Agreement for the current year. Once these criteria are verified and a listing of those meeting the guidelines sent by the Unit Leader or Master Gardener Coordinator to the State Master Gardener Office, i.d. cards will be sent to the unit for those meeting the guidelines. Since Trainees and Interns are not yet certified, they receive no card during the current year, but are eligible to receive one next year provided they meet the points outlined above.

Recently several questions have arisen about screening of Master Gardener volunteers who work with youth in the Junior Master Gardener program and other youth gardening projects. For the protection of everyone involved in these youth gardening projects, a volunteer screening process is required. Rather than developing an entirely new system, however, the Master Gardener State Advisory Committee has adopted the same system used by 4-H. The volunteer application form, CANTS form, and teacher exemption form are all available to Extension staff through the 4-H Extension web site.


An exciting new development for the coming year is Advanced Master Gardener training. The term "advanced training" has been used loosely in the past, so we'd like to clarify the difference between "advanced training" and "continuing education". Advanced training will be coordinated through the State Master Gardener office. Each advanced training topic will require at least 24 hours of instruction within a 2-year time frame in one horticulture-related topic taught by Extension-approved instructors. Participants must be active Master Gardeners to sign up for the course, attend all training sessions and pass an exam with a score of at least 80%. Upon successful completion of the Advanced Master Gardener Course in a particular topic, a recognition pin will be issued to the Master Gardener for that



topic. Advanced Master Gardener Training will also qualify as continuing education (to meet the 10 hour annual requirement), but most Master Gardener continuing education classes (seminars, short courses, state conference, local Master Gardener updates, etc.) aren't Advanced Master Gardener Training, even though the level of training may be more advanced than that of the core course.

Currently, two advanced Master Gardener training topics are under development. One in Plant Protection will offer 12 hours of instruction in entomology and 12 hours in plant pathology over a two-year time frame beginning in fall of 2002. The other advanced topic, Tree Identification, will be offered over a 2-3 month time frame beginning summer of 2002. Plans are to offer each of the advanced training classes once in each Extension Region so no one has too far to travel. Watch future issues of *Imagine* for registration information and more course details.

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 Denny Schrock

Important Dates

March 9: Potpourri of Gardening, Rock Springs Center, 3939 Nearing Lane, Decatur, IL. 8 am to 12 pm. Seminar choices include: Landscape Structures, Flowers for Keeps, Trees and Shrubs for the Home Landscape, Growing Roses in Illinois, Water Gardens, and Growing and Using Culinary Herbs. 217-877-6042.

March 9-17: Chicago Flower & Garden Show, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL. Call 312-222-5086 or visit the website at www.chicagoflower.com

March 15-16: *Fine Gardening* Magazines' Gardening Seminar, Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL. 630-968-0074 or check the website at www.mortonarb.org

March 16: Weekend Gardeners' Expo, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. Sponsored by the Madison-St. Clair Master Gardeners. Contact Janet Burnett at 618-692-7700.

March 16: Gardener's Day, Western Illinois University Student Union, Macomb, IL. Twelve great gardening topics will be presented. Topics include: A Rose is a Rose, Home Landscape Design 101, Don't Blame the Plant, Perennials for All Seasons, The Ever-Versatile Hosta, and from Garden to Vase. Admission is \$25 (includes lunch). Sponsored by the McDonough County Master Gardeners. 309-837-3939.

March 16: Fruit Tree Pruning, Dixon, IL. Workshop includes hands-on training. 815-857-3525.

March 23: Gardener's Big Day, Spoon River College, Canton, IL. The keynote speaker is Erin O'Brien from the Rose of Erin Garden Center in Tuscola. Seminar topics include: Daylilies, Container Gardening, Roses, Water Gardens, Conifers and Don't Blame the Plant. Fee is \$18. Sponsored by Fulton County Master Gardeners. 309-639-6278.

April 6: Gardenfest 2002, McHenry County College Conference Center, 8900 US Hwy14, Crystal Lake, IL, 8 am to 4 pm. The Gardenfest will feature Barbara Damrosch, a popular author, designer and TV host. Other sessions include; From Seed to Shining Seed,

Feng Shui in the Garden, Design Your Own Landscape, Growing Beautiful Container Gardens, Shrub Roses for Northern Gardens, Getting Started with Ornamental Grasses, The Square Foot Garden and Herbs Simplified. Admission is \$25 (includes lunch). Sponsored by McHenry County College and the McHenry Master Gardeners. Contact Molly Walsh at 815-455-8588.

April 13: Tri-County Gardening Day, Peoria Civic Center, Peoria, IL. Twenty-four gardening topics will be presented. Attendees may choose from topics such as : Joys and Challenges of Gardening, Perennial Garden Design, Use of Color in the Landscape, Made in the Shade, Fresh Ideas for Using Annuals, The Perfect Pond, The Tranquil Garden, Orchids and Native Birds. Admission is \$30 (includes lunch and parking). Sponsored by the Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford County Master Gardeners. 309-685-3140. For a printable brochure check the Master Gardener website at www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/training/seminars-workshops.html

April 20: Garden Faire 2002, Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, 3857 W. 111th Street, Chicago, IL. 9 am to 4 pm. Keynote speaker will be Elizabeth Botts, Garden Page Editor for the Chicago Tribune. A variety of workshops for the beginning and experienced gardener will include topics such as: growing roses, maintaining a healthy lawn, trees for urban environments, container, vegetable and butterfly gardens. The events will also feature a plant clinic staffed by Master Gardeners. Admission is \$25 (includes lunch). 773-233-0476.

September 12-14: State Master Gardener Convention, The Clock Tower Resort, Rockford, IL.

June 18-22, 2003: International Master Gardeners' Conference, Greater Cincinnati area and Northern Kentucky. Preliminary schedule and information available on the website at <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003/>.

Deadline for submission of articles for the May-June issue of *Imagine* is April 15th.

Please send your conference brochures to the state office (in electronic form) and we will link them to the "Continuing Education" section on the Illinois Master Gardener web page (www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/)

Chairman's Chat

When marking out your gardening calendar for 2002, you should block out Thursday through Saturday, September 12-14. Those are the dates for the annual MG conference this year, and I don't think you'll want to miss it!

It's going to be held at the Clock Tower Resort in Rockford, and the host counties (Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago) are hard at work putting together a memorable conference. Somehow the northwestern Illinois MGs have acquired a reputation for exuberance (less charitable folks say "rambunctiousness") so we're trying to live up to that reputation. From what I've heard of the plans so far, I think we're going to do so.

Several items will be new this year. There will be a full day of class sessions on a Saturday, so that those MGs who haven't been able to attend past conferences because of work schedules will at least be able to take in one full conference day this year. Past presenters and attendees have felt that class sessions have been too rushed, so each session this year will be 90 minutes long. And, bowing to oft-made requests, the program committee is trying to incorporate even more "hands on" workshops in the program, with a goal of at least one workshop or demonstration available in each of the 7 class sessions.

The class offerings are not fully determined as yet, but we already have topics from A(zaleas) to W(illow Structures), down-to-earth topics (Soils) and some up in the air (Orchids), icky ones (Insects & Diseases) and Ikebana. Biotechnology is on the menu, and so is a demonstration of Cooking with Herbs, plus lots more.

There'll be a full day of tours on Thursday, and on Friday Fun Night you'll have a chance to strut your stuff in your garden-related costume, win some prizes (Winnebago County MGs won't be in competition with you this year, so you have a better chance of success!), and tap your toes to a Dixieland band.

I hope you'll be able to join us for "Masters of the Garden", three full days of education and entertainment. Further details will be coming out in the next two issues of 'Imagine', but I thought you'd like to have a sneak preview of what looks to be the best MG conference you've ever had a chance to attend. We're looking forward to it, and I hope you are, too!

 Dave Hinde

Spotlight on Cook/South Suburban Master Gardeners

The Cook/South Suburban Unit Master Gardener family consists of 42 Certified, 8 interns, and 25 trainees (including 2 web based), a total of 75 volunteers. Our monthly Idea Exchange, recently attended by 35 Master Gardeners, is planned and moderated by a different volunteer each month. A guest speaker or Master Gardener presents a subject matter program. (Some of these count as continuing education.) We award Master Gardener certificates recently earned, as well as peer generated humorous or thankful "Ladybug" awards. During the second hour, Master Gardeners report on recent activities or seminars they have participated in, and take turns briefly sharing thoughts on a given topic such as "most useful reference," or "this year's most outstanding success or failure in the garden." In addition, Master Gardeners stay connected with a newsletter they write that spotlights activities of Master Gardeners as they become certified; recognizes long Active Master Gardeners; gives information on upcoming volunteer and educational opportunities; and includes minutes of the last Idea Exchange and great websites.

Some highlights on programs that educate the community: We've been polishing presentation skills at recent workshops on Seed Starting for the public; and leading after school 4-H Special Interest Clubs (one afternoon a week for six weeks). These gives us experience presenting the Junior Master Gardener_{sm} curriculum. Next summer, Master Gardeners will reach about 100 youth (using JMG_{sm}) during four, 4-H Adventure day camps. Demonstration gardens at Lake Katherine, Palos Heights; and Miller Gardens, Matteson, will be priority projects as well.

Master Gardener Apparel

Orders are now being taken for Master Gardener apparel. Several new items are being offered this year so check the photo sheet and order blank included with this newsletter. Fill out your order sheet and return it with your check (payable to the University of Illinois) to your local unit office. Prices include shipping. **Deadline for submission of unit orders to the state office is April 19th.** Apparel items will be shipped to your local unit offices- please pick them up promptly! Allow 4-6 weeks after the April 19th deadline for delivery of items. **Merchandise will not be accepted for return unless it is received in damaged condition.**

2002 European Trips

Book your tour now as only a few spaces still remain for the Master Gardener European tours. The trip to Holland, England and France departs May 13 and returns May 27. The cost is \$2,900 per person. Featured stops will be the 2002 Chelsea Flower Show, Versailles, Giverny, Hampton Court and the Floriade (world horticultural exhibit).

A second trip to Amsterdam, Germany, Switzerland and France will feature the Floriade as well as a Rhine River Boat trip, sightseeing in Zurich and Lucerne, tours of over a dozen gardens and free time in Paris. The trip is scheduled to depart July 13 and return July 27. Price per person is \$3,000. Book your tour ASAP with David Williams at 217-333-2126.



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