



Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,
News and Education

Vol. 4 No. 5
Sept.-Oct. 2003

Coordinators' Comments

I hope that you have planned to join the Master Gardeners from Will, Cook South Suburban and DuPage counties at a "A Gardener for All Seasons" this month in Lisle, IL. The tours to Morton Arboretum and Cantigny Gardens, the keynote address by Allan Armitage and the wide array of workshops and classes will be sure to please. If you aren't able to join us this year, mark your calendars for Sept 9-11, 2004 for the state conference in Decatur, IL.

The American Horticultural Therapy Association has approved all of the classes at the conference for credit. Any Master Gardener seeking certification as a Horticultural Therapist may count our classes toward their required hours. Please contact Nancy Kuhajda at 815-727-9296 or kuhajda@uiuc.edu if you wish to receive documentation of attendance.


My favorite part about working on the state conferences is getting to know the Master Gardeners who spend hours to prepare for the conference. Let's give our thanks to the 2003 steering committee: **JoAnn Chenell, Diana Husband, Patti Kirkpatrick, Sandy Klausman, Barbara McNichols and Lucille Poroli.** My special gratitude to **Nancy Kuhajda**, Will County Master Gardener Coordinator, for being the leading force in making this years conference a super one!

At the annual awards banquet on Sept. 18th, we will recognize individuals and Master Gardener teams when we award the Outstanding Master Gardener, the Sustained Excellence and the Teamwork awards. These folks have shown true dedication and leadership in their counties and have gone the extra mile in their volunteer endeavors. They truly exemplify the mission "Helping Others Learn to Grow". It was extremely difficult this year to select the winners. I was inundated with awards applications and the awards committee had a hard time choosing from so many deserving candidates. Please help me to recognize these

Master Gardeners and their accomplishments. Individual award winners are listed in this newsletter and I will highlight teamwork award winners in the Nov-Dec issue of *Imagine*.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce our new state advisory committee members. New staff members include **Elizabeth Wahle**, Southern region; **Karen Durtschi**, NW region; and **Julie Zanieski**, Chicago Botanic Garden. **Ernie Henson**, Southern region and **Barbara Wych**, NW region are the new Master Gardeners on the committee. I will rely heavily on these individuals as I begin my official role as Illinois Master Gardener Coordinator. The advisory committee will be working on Master Gardener awards, continuing education opportunities, publicity and funding in the coming months. If you have questions or comments for advisory team members, you can email them directly from the Master Gardener website (see the 'Who We Are' section) at www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/

Thanks to these folks who just completed their terms on the committee: **Treasa Brookman**, MG- Southern region; **Janet Burnett**, staff-Southern region; **Dave Hinde**-MG- NW region; **Joe Schwamberger**-staff-NW region; and **Pennie Crinion**, extension administration. Their ideas and support for the committee were appreciated.

 Monica David

Help Wanted...

Wanted... Master Gardener(s) to help plan domestic gardening tours. Volunteer should have previous experience as a travel agent or experience in booking tours, travel arrangements and hotels. This person would help the state coordinator plan garden tours for the Illinois Master Gardener Program. Expected salary Master Gardener volunteer hours and lots of "atta boys". Call or email Monica David at 217-265-5256 or modavid@uiuc.edu

Spotlight on.... Lake County Master Gardeners

The 70 Master Gardeners in Lake County are busy this year. Of course, one of the biggest activities is the information service where they answer questions for the public. The information service runs year round as the questions seem to keep coming, even in the dead of winter. As summer comes on, they may be helping between 500 and 700 clients per month. In addition, the Master Gardeners hold Garden Clinics at three local libraries every week from May through September.

Lake County MGs are also busy with hort therapy. They visit 6 nursing homes 3 to 4 times year and work with the residents on small garden-related projects. They also visit assisted living facilities and have worked with individuals with physical and developmental disabilities.

Youth benefit from the services of the Master Gardeners. In late winter the MGs hosted a horticulture workshop for 4-H members, to interest them in the horticulture projects available to the clubs. Several MGs also work with the youth at Allendale School. The school serves youths who have experienced abuse or neglect. The MGs work with the students in their greenhouse teaching them basic horticulture skills and acting as positive role models.

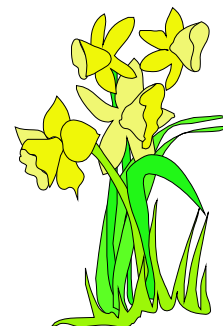
Master Gardeners also participate in the speakers bureau, help with fair, serve on the Extension Council, the Master Gardener Advisory Committee, the Garden Committee and the Extension Foundation, maintain demonstration gardens at the office and provide office support. This very active group works well together to serve the citizens of Lake County. ✍ Sharon Yiesla

Chairwoman's Chat

Master Gardeners are people with an interest in Horticulture and helping people to learn. After completing the initial training, Master Gardeners are seeking more depth in their continuing education. Many are taking additional training and joining societies to learn more about a particular plants.

When searching the web for gardening societies I was surprised to see all of the various societies that a gardener may join. Here is a partial list of organizations and societies:

American Horticultural Society
The African Violet Society of America
American Bamboo Society
American Camellia Society
American Conifer Society
The American Daffodil Society
American Dahlia Society
American Fern Society
American Gloxinia &
Gesneriad Society
American Iris Society
American Rose Society
Bonsai Association
Bromeliad Society International
International Bulb Society
North American Rock Garden Society
Pond and Water Clubs
Gardening Clubs



When belonging to one or two of these societies, some Master Gardeners have expressed how difficult it is to attend all of the meetings and conference of these specialized groups as well as attending the State Master Gardener conferences. Many of them are having a difficult time choosing which state or national conference they should attend.

Within the past couple of years the State Master Gardener Advisory Committee has been concerned about reaching all of the Master Gardeners in the state. Two suggestions are being tried: one, to rotate the state conference to a different region each year; and secondly, to begin the conference on Thursday and end on Saturday afternoon. By rotating the State Master Gardener conferences to different regions, hopefully the people in that region will help to plan and attend the conference.

Others have voiced concerns that the State Master Gardener conferences will become regional conferences. That is possible, however, there will always be some Master Gardeners who will attend the state conference no matter where it is located. Attendance at the state conferences would be an ideal choice for most Master Gardeners. State conferences are a wonderful place to meet and learn from gardeners throughout the state and from specialists in the field. However, for those Master Gardeners who wish to attend other state or national conferences of other societies, we hope that you will share your experiences with others in your area by making presentations or writing for the *Imagine* newsletter. ✍ Mariellen Griffith

2003 Outstanding Master Gardener Award Winners

Millie Allen-Knox	Sue Gould-Kane	Beverly Peterson-Whiteside
Doris Andrews-Sangamon/Menard	Camille Hanzlik-Kendall	Karen Ratledge-Peoria
Kris Aves-DeKalb	Ann Hendrick- Sangamon/Menard	Jean Reitan-DeKalb
Greg Bartoshuk- Cook North Suburban	Julie Hughes-Vermilion	Dee Rushing-DuPage
Norine Beirne-Cook	Joan Jeske-Cook North Suburban	Sunita Shastry-Tazewell
Charles Bell-Sangamon/Menard	Nanette Kalscheur-DuPage	Jane Squires-Sangamon/Menard
Bernadette Bird-Ogle	Art King-Cook South Suburban	Larry States-DuPage
Jerry Blackburn-Sangamon/Menard	Marva King-Cook South Suburban	Nancy Steinke-Kane
Mike Brown-Coles	Don Kniepkamp-Madison/St. Clair	John Taylor-Fulton
Patt Caldwell-Jo/Carroll	Shirley Kolbus-Coles	Mary Theising-Winnebago
Alan Champ-Lake	Carole Komarewich-McHenry	Sheila Thomas-Lasalle
Donna Cothrell-Tazewell	Marian Lambert-Boone	Shirley Thompson-Winnebago
Bev Cotter-Champaign	Gary Lazar-Sangamon/Menard	Ann Tice-Champaign
Ruth Eilers-Stephenson	Nancy Lemieux-Peoria	Freda Trone-Fulton
Marshann Entwhistle-Bureau	Sandy Lentz-DuPage	John Wallis-Whiteside
Anna Erwin-Stephenson	Charlotte McGhee-Macon	Shirley Wallis-Whiteside
Jim Etherton-Monroe	Shirley Metz-Tazewell	Elaine Weil-DuPage
Jan Fisher-Champaign	Vic Mockaitis-Macon	Jim Wigman-McHenry
Sherry George-Fulton	Mary Moisand-Cook North Suburban	Madelynn Wilharm-Jo/Carroll
Margie Gienow-Peoria	Betty Moser-Macon	Cheryl Williams-Sangamon/Menard

2003 Sustained Excellence Award Winners

Luci Barnas-Cook North Suburban	Katie Grady-Peoria	Marsha Overton-Coles
Joy Beuschlein-Sangamon/Menard	Mariellen Griffith-Mclean	Tari Parr-Sangamon/Menard
John Bodensteiner-Vermilion	Lee Hammond-Peoria	Joe Pasteris-DeKalb
Diane Chesko-Kane	Paul Kochendorfer-Lake	Lawrence Trower-Moultrie/Douglas
Jean Dawson-Champaign	Judy Lay-Champaign	Mary Uccello-McHenry
Caroline Gherardini- Sangamon/Menard	Gloria McDonald-Crawford	Ron Welling-Stephenson
Sue Giger-Peoria	Carol Morrisey-Tazewell	

Master Gardeners Involved in Research

Here is the low-down on a few projects which are just beginning in Illinois:

Consumer Reports— Twelve Illinois Master Gardeners will provide tips on gardening. Consumer Reports will also provide tools such as pruners, lawn sprinklers, tool carriers and more for our volunteers to evaluate.

Paper Mulch- Peoria Master Gardeners are testing new paper mulches at their PAR garden. The mulches, produced by researchers at the USDA Ag Lab, are several weights of paper coated with a soy mixture. The new mulch (which unlike plastic mulch is biodegradable) is being tested in their tomato and pepper plantings.

Perennial Plant Trials- Dr. Janice Coons from Eastern Illinois University is working on prairie plant trials with Master Gardeners from Champaign and Coles Counties. These volunteers received about 10 plants (3 different species) to plant in their gardens and evaluate flowering, overwintering, adaptability to the landscape and pest and disease problems.



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