



# Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,  
News and Education

Vol. 4 No. 1  
Jan.-Feb. 2003

## Coordinators' Comments

As we embark on a new year, let us first reflect on the past year. The University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener program had a great year in 2002 and we look forward to an even better year in 2003. Some of the accomplishments for 2002 included:

- The Junior Master Gardener<sub>sm</sub> program reached over 800 children in 28 registered groups. The Hardin County Jammin' Clovers JMG<sub>sm</sub> group was chosen as a 2002 Illinois State 4-H Group award. Another group, The Nature Masters from Crawford County completed the Level I curriculum to become fully certified Junior Master Gardeners<sub>sm</sub>.
- 39 Trainees completed the first online training and became Master Gardener Interns.
- Over 600 new Master Gardeners participated in the face-to-face training.
- Close to 100,000 pounds of produce were donated to the Plant-A-Row for the Hungry.
- More than 370 Master Gardeners attended the annual conference in Rockford, IL, hosted by Master Gardeners from NW Illinois.
- 21 Sustained Excellence and 52 Outstanding Master Gardener awards were given out in 2002 as well as 17 Teamwork project awards.
- 100 Master Gardeners received their pins and certificates for Advanced Training in Tree Identification.
- The Master Gardener Coordinators Group was established to promote sharing of volunteer management strategies and project successes between local coordinators.

Many thanks to all of you who gave unselfishly of your time and talents to the Master Gardener program.

As you contemplate Master Gardener projects for the coming year, please don't forget to record your accomplishments from 2002. In these times of uncertainty

about budget cuts, we must make sure that our contributions are recognized. Please send reports of your successful 2002 projects to the state office.

Your local Master Gardener coordinator will be asking (if they haven't already done so!) that you report both your volunteer hours and your continuing education hours for 2002. Remember, to remain active you must complete 30 hours of volunteer time and 10 hrs. of continuing education each year. Those Master Gardeners who are current in hours and wish to remain active in 2003 will receive a Master Gardener wallet Id card later this winter.

It is also important for you to sign a volunteer agreement to remain active for 2003. Think of this agreement as a contract between yourself and the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener program. Here is what **YOU** are pledging to the University of Illinois Master Gardener program:

- work with local Extension Unit staff and volunteers to implement a program of excellence in the community
- comply with training and certification requirements
- provide non-biased research-based horticultural information to the public
- use the title of University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener only when doing unpaid volunteer work
- cooperate with and support Extension Unit staff members to further the missions and objectives of the Master Gardener program

Here is what **WE** (Extension staff members and the Master Gardener administration) are pledging to you:

- provide training for all new Master Gardeners
- provide continuing education opportunities such as the state conference and advanced training
- provide access to University of Illinois based research and Extension professionals

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- provide a state-wide newsletter and web site
- provide liability insurance protection for you while you are participating in a scheduled and approved University of Illinois Extension activity
- provide supervision, support and direction to volunteers as well as a safe working environment

I would also encourage all Master Gardeners to familiarize themselves with the state policies on a yearly basis. These policies were adopted by the Master Gardener state advisory committee in Nov. 2000 and were implemented in 2001. If you have not received a copy from your local office, please ask for one. The policies are also available on the state website at <http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/>. If you have questions about the policies, please contact your local coordinator, your advisory committee representative or the state office.

Good gardening in 2003! ✍️ Monica David

## Search For Master Gardener Excellence

Johnny's Seeds is sponsoring a new recognition program for Master Gardeners in the U.S. A. and Canada. The winning projects must demonstrate excellence in education and service to local communities. Local Master Gardener groups may submit an application in one of seven categories: youth programs; demonstration garden; workshop or hands-on programs; community service; innovative projects; special audiences, senior/disabled audiences or Hort Therapy; or general Master Gardener accomplishments. Winners will be expected to give a 5 minute talk on their project as well as prepare a poster display for the International Master Gardener conference. Monetary awards and plaques will be given to the top winners in each category. Please consider submitting an application for these awards. Let's showcase the excellent programs you work on each year by entering this recognition contest. Check out the website for details: <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003/excellence.html> **The deadline for application is February 10, 2003.**



## Important Dates

**January 15-17:** Mid-Am Horticultural Trade Show, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL. Check the website at [www.midam.org](http://www.midam.org) or call 847-526-2010.

**January 18:** Herb Day, Holiday Inn, Urbana, IL. See page 5 of this newsletter.

**January 22-24:** Illinois Landscape Contractors Association Design Seminar, NIU Education Center, Hoffman Estates, IL. For further information, check the website at [www.ilca.net](http://www.ilca.net).

**January 25:** "A Winter Day in the Garden", Zwermann Theatre, Lincoln Trail College, Robinson, IL. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speakers include: Pat Stone of *GreenPrints*, "The Weeder's Digest" and Coauthor of *Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul: 101 Stories to Make the Heart Bloom*"; Nancy Clifton and David Stickel from the Chicago Botanic Garden; and Rachel McPherson from Craig Bergmann's Country Garden. Class topics will be Woody Plants for Year Round Interest; Containers for All Seasons; Preserving Plant Materials and Using Them in Gardens, Wreaths and Arrangements; and Perennial Gardening in the Midwest. Late registration fee (Jan 4- 18) is \$30. Sponsored by the Crawford County Master Gardeners. 618-546-1549.

**February 1:** "Joys of Gardening", Highland Community College, Freeport, IL. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The topic for the keynote address is: "Vertical Expressions- An introduction to the Art of Using Garden Accessories". Four breakout sessions will cover topics such as Rain Gardens, Rustic Garden Accessories, Backyard Ponds, Roses, Tropical Plants, Unwelcome Insect Pests, Bog Gardens, Herbs, Cacti & Succulents, and Small Fruits. Pre-registration is required. Sponsored by the Stephenson County Master Gardeners. 815-235-4125.

**February 4, 5, 6:** Tree Fruit Schools: Feb 4- Centralia Elks Lodge; Feb 5- St. Joseph Parish Hall, Cobden; Feb 6- 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Hardin. 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Topics for classes at each location include: Grower Observations, Fruit Rots, Codling Moth, Orchard Floor Management and Peach Disease and Insect Updates. Contact numbers: Centralia- 618-548-1446, Cobden- 618-833-6363, Hardin- 618-576-2293.

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## Important Dates

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**February 6:** “How to Garden with Light & Color”, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL. This one-day symposium features ways in which the quality of available light impacts design, plant selection and color choices when making a garden. The event will feature internationally known gardeners- Helen Dillon, Ireland; Marylyn Abbott, Australia; Dan Hinkley, Heronswood Nursery and Peter Loewer, North Carolina. Cost is \$109. Sponsored by *Horticulture* magazine and the Chicago Botanic Garden. For details or to register, call 1-877-436-7764.

**February 12:** Southern IL. Vegetable School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. A full day of lectures will include these topics: Mite Management, Vegetable Production, Cucurbit & Tomato Disease Management, Row Cover and Plastic Mulches, Organic Production and Insect Control Options. Pre-registration cost is \$20, \$25 at the door. Contact the Edwardsville Extension Center for more information- 618-693-9434.

**February 15:** “Dig into Spring” Knox Agri Center, Galesburg, IL. Participants will select four sessions from 12 different topics, including Trees, Lavender, Wreaths for All Seasons, Garden Photography, Japanese Gardens and Vines. Sponsored by the Knox County Master Gardeners. 309-342-5108.

**February 15:** Gardeners Day, U of I Extension Bldg., IL. State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL. Nine one-hour seminars will be offered by Extension Specialists and local Horticulture experts. Topics include: Underused Trees and Shrubs, Roses, Plant Multiplication, Garden Pest Management, Landscape Structures, Native Backyards, and Vegetables. Pre-registration highly encouraged. \$3 in advance, \$5 at the door. Sponsored by the Sangamon-Menard Master Gardeners. 217-782-4617.

**February 18:** “The Fundamentals of Greenhouse Plant Nutrition”, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Dr. Ray Cloyd will discuss how to maintain healthy plants in greenhouse production. Topics include managing nutrients; the influence of water quality, pH & alkalinity on plant growth; how to select fertilizers; and ways to avoid nutrient deficiencies and

toxicities. Call 847-835-8261 or check the website at [www.chicagobotanic.org/continuinged](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/continuinged).

**February 22:** Nursery School-“Lessons in Gardening”, The Mark of the Quad Cities, Moline, IL. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sixteen classes will be offered. Class topics include: Heavenly Hostas, Garden Lighting, Container Gardening, Ornamental Grasses, Annuals, Hypertufa Troughs, Vegetable Garden Problems, Perennial Gardening, Kinder Gardens, and Garden to Pantry- Using Herbs. Deadline for reservations is Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. Cost (includes lunch) is \$32. Sponsored by the Rock Island County Master Gardeners. Call 309-796-0512.

**February 25-26:** Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. Keynote speakers are Floyd Giles, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois and Steven Still, Extension Research and Teaching, Ohio State University. Many class selections are offered, including some taught in Spanish. Topics include: Turfgrasses, Plant Diseases, Weed Control, Hollies, Hydrangeas, Plant Combinations, Native Trees, Shade Garden Plants, Insect Problems and Golf Course Maintenance. Registration is due by February 11. Contact Ron Cornwell 618-692-9434) with questions about the program. For registration questions, call 618-692-7700.

**March 1:** 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Gardening for Food & Fun, Rock Valley College, Rockford, IL. 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Day long workshop features over 20 classes on a variety of garden topics including Perennials, Native Plants, Herbs, Roses, Vegetables and much more. This year’s featured speaker is a physical therapist who will instruct on how to avoid injury and make gardening easier with age. Cost before Feb. 21: \$15 workshop only, \$20 workshop and lunch. After Feb. 21- \$25 workshop and lunch. Hosted by the Winnebago Co. Master Gardeners. 815-987-7379.

**March 4 & 5:** Small Fruit and Strawberry Schools, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. Two days of classes feature these topics: Bramble Production, Wine & Table Grapes, Blueberries, Strawberry Production, Strawberry Disease and Weed Control and Plasticulture. Registration is \$25. Contact Browyn Aly with questions- 618-695-2444.

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## Important Dates

**March 7:** Garden Program for Master Gardeners and Extension staff. Holiday Inn, Urbana, IL. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tracy DiSabato-Aust, well known garden author will present “The Well-Designed Mixed Garden: Building Borders with Trees, Shrubs, Perennials, Annuals and Bulbs”. Pre-registration required. Cost \$20. 217-333-7672.

**March 8:** Garden Day 2003- “Color in the Garden”, Holiday Inn, Urbana, IL. 8 a.m. to 4 pm. Featured speakers will be Tracy DiSabato-Aust, author of *Well-Tended Perennial Garden*; Colston Burrell, author of *Perennial Combinations* and *A Gardener’s Encyclopedia of Wildflowers*; Felder Rushing, author of *Passalong Plants* and *Gardening Southern Style*; and Janet Macunovich, author of *Caring for Perennials: What to Do and When to Do It*. Pre-registration is required: \$55 for MG and \$65 for general public. Sponsored by the Champaign County Master Gardeners. 217-333-7672 or check the website at [www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/champaign](http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/champaign).

**March 8:** “Potpourri of Gardening”, Rock Springs Nature Center, Decatur, IL. 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Topics include Water Gardening, Theme Gardens, Annuals, Container Gardening and Trees. Cost is \$8 in advance; \$10 day of event. Tickets are available from the Macon County Office beginning February 1, 2003. 217-877-6042. Sponsored by the Macon County Master Gardeners.

**March 8-16:** Chicago Flower & Garden Show, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL. [www.chicagoflower.com](http://www.chicagoflower.com)

**March 14-16:** Weekend Gardener Expo, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. Noted speakers include Mary Ann Fink– presenting Seasonal Tips for Gardeners, Angie Eckert, Diane O’Connell, Mike Miller (KMOX radio) and Jim McMillan (KTRS) Cost is \$5.50 per day. 618-692-7700.

**March 15:** Gardener’s Day, Western Illinois University Student Union, Macomb, IL. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Class choices consist of Ornamental Grasses, Houseplants, Dried Pressed Flowers, Organic Vegetable Gardening, Dwarf Conifers, Orchids, Spring Wildflowers, Trough Gardening, Perennials, Vines, and

Bonsai. Pre-registration is \$25 (lunch included) until March 10th. Sponsored by the McDonough County Master Gardeners. 309-837-3939.

**March 22:** “Midwest Gardening: Challenges and Opportunities”- St. Louis Garden Symposium, St. Louis Community College-Meramec Campus. This one day symposium will highlight speakers Roger Swain, *Horticulture Magazine* and retired host of the PBS *Victory Garden*; John Elsey, Song Sparrow Farm; Tracy DiSabato-Aust, garden designer and author; Neil DiBoll, Prairie Nursery; and Chris Woods, Director of Chanticleer. Early registration (before Jan 31) is \$69 and registration after Feb 1 is \$79. Sponsored by the Horticulture Coop of Metro St. Louis and the Junior League of St. Louis. Contacts: Paul Roberts 314-984-7714 and Elizabeth Southern 314-983-0515.

**March 22:** “Gardener’s Big Day”, Spoon River College, Canton, IL. Lois White will return by popular demand to talk on Hummingbirds. Breakout sessions available on Berries & Brambles, Critter Control, Roses, Granny’s Tips, Bird Watching, Butterflies, Landscape Design, Herbs, and Perennials. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$18.00. Sponsored by the Fulton Co. Extension, Spoon River College and the Spoon River Garden Club. For more information call 309-547-3711.

**March 29:** “Tri-County Gardening Day”, Peoria Civic Center, Peoria, IL. Six seminars, workshops and demonstrations will be offered in each of three sessions. Key-note speaker is Jim Wilson, noted garden author and *Victory Garden* Host. Cost is \$30. Registration ends March 12. Sponsored by the Master Gardeners of Woodford, Tazewell and Peoria counties. 309-685-3140.

**April 5:** “Gardenfest” McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, IL. Gardenfest will feature over 30 sessions as well as hands-on workshops. A few of the featured topics are Willow Structures, Weed Id., Japanese Flower Arranging, Cooking with the Seasons and English Garden Design. Classes are coded for beginners, intermediate and advanced gardeners. Contact Molly Walsh for more information, 815-455-3700.

**September 18-20 :** Illinois Master Gardener Conference, Lisle/Naperville Hilton, Lisle, IL.

## Herb Day 2003

Whether you are interested in raising herbs in a home garden or producing and marketing them on a small scale commercially, the educational and entertaining sessions planned for Herb Day 2003 should satisfy you. This year, Herb Day is scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2003, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, 1001 Killarney Street, Urbana, Illinois, just off I-74 at exit 183 (Lincoln Avenue).

A day of herbal fun, food, and fellowship is planned for Herb Day 2003, with noted herbal experts from around the country set to present educational sessions which will inspire herb gardening and use in the coming year.

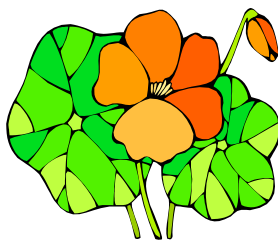
**Betsy Williams**, owner of The Proper Season in Andover, Massachusetts, and author of *Are There Fairies at the Bottom of My Garden?* will speak about designing and planting herbal theme gardens in a talk entitled *"Fairy Dreams and Other Herbal Themes"*. She will also present *"Mrs. Thrift's Herbal Tips"*, an in-character interpretation of the usage of a wide variety of herbs.

**Deanna House**, home economist and cookbook author from Ada, Michigan, will entertain us with her unique style of *"Efficient Herbal Cooking"*. Deanna's light, humorous presentation and encouragement of audience interaction make for a lot of fun.

**William Handel**, of the Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, will present a historical perspective on *"Native American Prairie Plant Medicine"*, a look at how the original residents of the Illinois prairie used the plants around them.

Finally, **Jan Powers**, of Peoria, Illinois, will demonstrate, *"Containing Your Passion for Herbs"*, a talk about how to design and construct beautiful, functional herb container gardens.

As in past years, there will be a retail area, with vendors of herbs, everlastings, equipment, books, and many other herbal products, which will be open for shopping to both Herb Day 2003 attendees and interested members of the general public from 8:00 am until 3:00 p.m. There is no entrance fee for those attending only the retail event.



"This event has blossomed into far more than a chance to see and hear nationally known and respected herb experts speak. The conference has become an annual gathering place for herb enthusiasts from all over Illinois and surrounding states, where they can renew their collective enthusiasm for herb gardening," said Chuck Voigt, U of I Extension specialist

Herb Day 2003 is sponsored by U of I Extension and is open to professionals as well as members of the general public. Cost of registration, including lunch, is \$39 per person. This includes seating in the lectures, an information packet, an herbal theme lunch buffet, and access to the retail area. There will be vegetarian options on this buffet, or a vegan plate can be arranged in advance.

Lunch reservations must be received no later than January 10, 2003. Those interested should mail checks, payable to the University of Illinois, to Herb Day 2003, Attention: Carol Preston, S-406 Turner Hall, 1102 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana, Illinois, 61801 to reserve registration and lunch.

Space in the lecture room is limited to 250 participants, and on-site registration will only be allowed if those spaces are not filled prior to the event. On-site registration will also cost \$39, but will not include lunch. For more information, call (217) 333-7738 and mention Herb Day 2003. Credit card orders cannot be accepted.

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## Western European Trip to be Offered in 2003

Join fellow Master Gardeners and University of Illinois Horticulture students on this fun filled excursion to the Netherlands, Germany and France. The trip will tentatively depart on May 20 and last for about 11-12 days. Featured stops include Kuekenhauf, Aalsmeer Flower Auction, Bos Koop Nursery Crop Research Station and Museum, Het Loo Palace, the Gardens of Adpeltern and the Cologne Cathedral and Botanic Garden. The trip will conclude with a stop in the Champaign production region of France and then several days in Paris to view Versailles, Giverney and the Bagatelle Rose Garden. Cost for the trip has not been determined. Check the next issue of *Imagine* for more details. Contact Dave Williams, trip host, at 217-333-2126 for more information.

## Chairperson's Chat

Winter is a good time for gardeners to slow down and do a little dreaming. Some gardeners contemplate the past year's garden while others make New Year's resolutions. Others began thinking ahead to the new spring garden or fall produce. Here are ten resolutions that you might consider:

- Design a plan for the garden and keep it updated.
- Start a Journal, keep records of dates when seeds were planted and peak time of flowering plants.
- Add a new plant to the garden.
- Photograph the garden throughout the seasons.
- Take time to plan for the new garden, review what plants you liked and disliked in last year's garden and what new seeds you want to plant.
- Avoid making spontaneous purchases of seeds or plants.
- Choose plants that are resistant to disease
- Put into practice the steps of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- Practice organic methods of gardening.
- Become aware of the ecology of the garden, yard and community.

I would like to expand on the first resolution, "Take time to plan for a new garden." I want to suggest that you consider and plan for a Theme Garden, a great approach for nearly every gardener. Theme gardens challenge the gardener to be more creative in their design and seek out those rare and hard to find plants. Theme gardening can be as broad as a "Medicinal Herb Garden" or as narrow as a "Blue Garden" which blooms in fall and grows in the shade. In general when you think of theme gardens, there are many examples: Biblical, Shakespearean, Medieval Herb, Colonial, Victorian, Romanic, Moonlight, Fragrance, Monochromatic, Butterfly and Hummingbird gardens. The list is endless.

Steps to consider in designing a Theme Garden are:

- Select a Theme, search for background information (history)
- Size of area
- Soil conditions and Environmental conditions
- Time and Budget
- Formal versus informal
- Design in layers such as: canopy, understory, ground plane

As an example, I have chosen a Medieval Shakespearean garden. The inspiration for the garden design came from visiting Shakespearean gardens in Canada, England and the United States. All of these gardens had several elements in common: enclosed garden; statues of Shakespeare and characters from his plays; symmetrical in design (squares, straight lines); rock borders and/or bushes; entry gate or arch; stone benches; and plants mentioned in Shakespeare's writings.

The first medieval garden was developed in a Christian monastery as early as 305 A.D. Gardening was an important feature of monastic life. Many early medieval gardens were inside the courtyard of the monastery called cloisters. Most cloisters had grass with natural wild flowers, though a tree, well or fountain may have been a feature in some cases. Later gardens were used for growing medicinal herbs and sometimes flowers were grown for the altar. The castles of the nobility were like monasteries with a complete community. The main produce would be grown outside the castle walls while small gardens inside the walls contained medicinal and culinary herbs. In England the nobility and richer merchants began to create pleasure gardens as well as kitchen gardens. Some of the plants mentioned in Shakespeare writings are: roses (*Henry VI*); daffodils and daisies found in Shakespeare's spring songs; from *Hamlet* there are artemisia, pansies and columbine; and herbs such as marjoram are found in *All's Well That Ends Well* and fennel from *Hamlet*.

Be creative in your design. Find an area that is at least 10 x 12 feet. Plant trees in the corners. Measure a circle in the center of your area and divide it in six equal parts. Add a tree or fountain in the center with plants growing in the separate six parts around the tree. Create four to six squares at least three feet from the central circle so that pathways can be created for working or strolling. Plant at least three trees in the center of the outer walls and place two or three stone benches under the trees. You can mix herbs with the perennials and annuals mentioned in Shakespeare's writings or not. Plant vines or climbing roses on the entrance arch or gate. Laying stone walls around the area adds to the feeling of an enclosure.

Have fun with your design & let me know if you decide to put a Shakespeare or herb garden in your yard.

## Spotlight on....

### Tazewell Co. Master Gardeners

Tazewell County is a large rural/agricultural community located on the Illinois River in central Illinois. We have been participating in the Master Gardener program for 11 years. Some 100 men and women have been trained to be Master Gardeners and about 50 remain active today.

We have close ties to 2 neighboring counties – Peoria and Woodford. Together we have several joint projects underway. Tri-County projects include:

Tri-County Garden Day is a huge undertaking. We organize the program and play host to 500 – 600 gardeners each year. It is a day of garden and landscape information presented by some of the authorities in their fields. The Steering Committee for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-County Garden Day received State Teamwork awards at the Master Gardeners State convention this past year. The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Day will be held March 29, 2003 at the Civic Center in Peoria.

The ICC Demonstration Garden located on the campus of Illinois Central College in East Peoria was started this past summer. Much progress has been made. The garden has been laid out, the beds edged, walkways installed and many plants have been planted. Work will continue next spring. A plant sale was held to provide some financial support.

A weekly radio show entitled “In the Garden” features 2 Master Gardeners from the Tri-County area each Saturday morning. Timely topics are discussed and listener questions are encouraged. Tune into WMBD –AM to catch our show.

In addition to Tri-County projects we are busy with Tazewell County projects. Bud Potts and a team of dedicated gardeners undertook the beautification of an entire town. The Mackinaw Beautification Project improved the appearance of the town and improved civic interest. The team received a State Teamwork award for their efforts. Bud was also the recipient of a Sustained Excellence Master Gardener Award.

We maintain gardens in several of the communities throughout the county, staff a “Hot Line” throughout the spring and summer months, act as judges, clerks and barn setters at fairs and garden club functions or 4-H activities. We also have established a Speakers Bureau. Several members are available to

present programs on varied subjects – Attracting Hummingbirds and Butterflies, Growing Great Gourds, and the Secret Life of a Tree.

Many gardeners work on projects with the Fon Du Lac Garden Guild in East Peoria. They have developed and are maintaining Victorian-era gardens at Doering House, work at the Farm Park demonstration gardens and conducted a Junior Master Gardening Training session this summer.


Not all work. Each May we hold a potluck and plant exchange for our members and guests. We have great food and a wide variety of plants available for trade. This year a new game was introduced. Flower Bingo developed by our own member, Suzanne Cook. This game has proved very popular at garden events throughout the area.



One of our most popular projects has been concrete Stepping-Stone featuring the state Master Gardener logo. We are presently sold out but hope to offer them again on a statewide level. If anyone is interested, contact Donna Cothrell at (309) 694-7648.

We are working on some new projects for the spring and summer of 2003. We plan to expand our “Hot Line” to include a mentoring program. A Plant-a-Row for the Hungry is being developed as well as a Therapy Garden at a local nursing home.

Tazewell County Master Gardeners are involved in the community. It is our intent to help home gardeners with common problems and to provide assistance in beautifying our surroundings.

 Shirley Metz, Master Gardener

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## It's almost time to order Master Gardener Apparel

A color photosheet and order blank for Master Gardener apparel will be available in the March-April issue of *Imagine*. The same popular items as last year will be offered but several new items have been added for 2003. Check out the classy new Master Gardener pins, aprons, short sleeve denim shirts and new tote bags. Don't miss out! Apparel orders are only taken once per year. Profits from this year's sale will go towards operation of the state Master Gardener program.

## International Master Gardener Conference

Join your friends and Master Gardener colleagues from around the country on June 18-21, 2003 in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area for this event. Keynote speakers will be Holly Shimizu, Director of the United States Botanical Garden and Tracy DiSabato-Aust, well-known author and garden lecturer. An impressive line-up of class choices and workshops will be offered as well as time to relax and meet other gardeners. Five pre-conference tours and 21 conference tours are also available. Registration is \$345 until March 31, 2003. For more information or to register online visit this website:

<http://www.hcs.osu.edu/mg/img/conference.html>.

## Imagine

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Visit the Illinois Master Gardener website: <http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg>



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