



Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,
News and Education

Vol. 5 No. 1
Jan.-Feb. 2004

Coordinators' Comments

During the winter season it is time to turn our attention to improving our gardening knowledge. The next few pages list a plethora of wonderful garden days and excellent educational opportunities to accommodate Master Gardeners in every region of the state. So support your fellow volunteers in other counties by attending several of these excellent classes!

It is now time to tally up your 2003 volunteer and continuing education hours. We have set February 1st as the deadline for counties to report their 2003 hours to the state office. Please help your coordinators to make this deadline.

The state advisory committee has had a very busy year working on policies, education, awards and marketing issues. Here are a few updates:

- * In November, the advisory committee made 2 revisions to the annual volunteer and trainee agreements. First, the agreements give permission to use your photograph and name in any publicity the county or state office may do. Secondly, the agreement now states that the signee agrees to follow the IL Dept of Agriculture's licensing requirements for the application of pesticides. **If you are applying any type of pesticide in a public area (examples: demonstration gardens, community gardens, gardens at fairgrounds or libraries etc.) then you as the applicator must be licensed.** For licensing information call the IDA at 800-641-3934. If you wish to register for the classes or tests or to receive study material call 800-644-2123.
- * Beginning with the 2004 trainings, all trainees will use the new standardized quizzes, which have been provided to the Master Gardener Coordinators. These quizzes are in multiple choice, True-False, short answer or fill-in the blank format and answers can be found in the manual.

- * **It is imperative that all volunteers who work with children go through the CANTs screening procedure.** This is the same procedure used by 4-H volunteers. If you have questions consult your coordinator, unit leader or youth educator.
- * The advisory committee has taken this stand on home visits by Master Gardeners: "The University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener administration will not endorse home visits by Master Gardeners. This is due to legal issues. This may be allowed in special cases only, when the Master Gardener has received prior approval from the unit leader and Master Gardener Coordinator."
- * The term "Honorary Master Gardener" is not to be awarded to Master Gardeners by the local units. The designation "Friend of Master Gardeners" may be awarded at the local level to recognize a non-Master Gardener who has made a significant contribution to the program.
- * The applications for the three state awards: Outstanding Master Gardener, Sustained Excellence and Teamwork award have been revised. More specific criteria for selection have been incorporated into the document and it was shortened to make the application easier to complete. These new applications will be emailed to the coordinators in spring 2004.

Happy New Year to all ✍ Monica David

MG Apparel Available Soon

Check the March-April issue of Imagine for information about ordering Master Gardener apparel. A color photosheet and order blank will be included with the newsletter and will be sent to training sites for distribution to the trainees. Profits from the sale of apparel go towards operational expenses of the state Master Gardener program.

Important Dates

January 6: Southern Illinois Bedding Plant School, Southwestern Illinois College, Belleville, IL. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 618-692-7700 for more information.

January 7-9: "Plants 2004" Professional Landscape and Nursery Trade Show, Indiana RCA Dome and Convention Center, Indianapolis, Indiana. This is an educational conference and trade show. Over 20 speakers will present 44 class sessions on a variety of gardening and business topics. Registration is \$100 for all the general sessions and trade show. The trade show only is free but registration is required. Sponsored by the Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association. 317-889-2382.

January 7-9: Design Seminar –Focus on Design, Northern Illinois University Education Center, Hoffman Estates, IL. Three days of workshops about the process and product of landscape design through classes on public area design, private space design, hardscape and comprehensive design. Sponsored by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association. 630-472-2851.

January 14-16: Mid-Am Trade Show, Lakeside Center at McCormick Place, Chicago, IL. Check the website at www.midam.org/

January 17: "Herb Day", Holiday Inn and Conference Center, Urbana, IL. 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Speakers include: Stephen Lee, who will demonstrate cooking with herbs; John Enterline and Ron Short who will co-present two talks on herbal teas and arrangements as well as decorating and seasonal displays. A retail area will also be present. Cost is \$44 and includes an herbal luncheon. Reservations must be received by January 9th to guarantee lunch. Call Carol Preston to register and for information- 217-333-7738.

January 22-24: Illinois Specialty Crops Conference, Crowne Plaza, Springfield IL. 618-692-9434.

January 24, 2004: "A Winter Day in the Garden", Zwermann Theatre, Lincoln Trail College, Robinson, IL. 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Doors open at 7:30. Speakers include: Felder Rushing "Tough Plants for Northern Gardens"; Tom Turpin "All for the Bugs Stand Up and Holler"; Gene Bush "Ten Months of Bloom in the Shade Garden"; Diane Noland "Entertaining in the Garden: Floral Design"; and Kate Copsy "Herb Garden-

ing". Registration fee is \$30 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Late registration fee \$40 after Jan. 12. Sponsored by the Crawford County Master Gardeners. 618-546-1549.

February 5: "The New Oasis Garden", Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This program features world renowned speakers Penelope Hobhouse-"The Oasis Garden: Images of Paradise"; Thomas Hobbs-"Planting and Adorning a Jewel-Box Garden"; Jeff Epping-"Summer Retreats"; and Nicholas Staddon-"Fragrance and Foliage in the Contemporary Oasis". Registration fee is \$99 for *Horticulture* subscribers and CBG members and \$109 for others. Sponsored by the Chicago Botanic Garden, *Horticulture* magazine and *Monrovia* Growers. Call 877-436-7764 or online at www.hortmag.com

February 11: Southern Illinois Vegetable School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. 618-692-9434.

February 13-15: Midwestern Herb and Garden Show, Times Square Mall, Mt. Vernon, IL. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Fri. and Sat.; Noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The featured speaker is Doreen Howard, Editor of Mother Earth News who will speak on Container Gardening and Beautiful Heirloom and Unusual Vegetables. Rod Jackson will talk on Nuwati Herbal Products and Lynn Jenkins will present a class on Gardening with Nature and Natural Water Features. Free admission. Sponsored by Herbs for Fun and Health and the Mt. Vernon Convention and Visitors Bureau. Call 1-800-252-5464 or check the website at <http://groups.msn.com/MidwesternHerbandGardenShow>

February 20-22: Southern Illinois Garden Show, Carbondale Civic Center, Carbondale, IL. The show features a number of workshops; many informational booths and vendors; a judged flower show; a "Tea" in the "Butterfly Flower Garden" and a fashion show. Jackson County Master Gardeners will have an "Ask a Master Gardener" walk-up booth, a Hort internet kiosk and a general Extension Resource section. Contact David Bobell for more information at 618-687-1727.

February 21: "Joys of Gardening", Highland Community College Student Center, Freeport, IL. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The keynote address, "Perennials and Grasses in the Landscape", will be delivered by Nancy Nedveck from the Flower Factory in Stoughton, WI. Fifteen class choices are available and cover such topics as Willow Wizardry Workshop; Landscape Lighting;

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Important Dates (cont.)

The Everlasting Garden; Vegetable Vandals; Make Your Own Garden Sprinkler; Pruning; Water Gardening and more. A full day registration with lunch cost \$20. Sponsored by the Stephenson County Master Gardeners. Call 815-235-4125.

February 21: Home, Lawn and Garden Day, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL. 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Keynote speaker, Jim Schmidt will present a talk on "Underused Annuals". Each attendee may attend 3 different sessions plus the keynote address. Class sessions include: Listen Today Before you Spray; Bonsai for Beginners; A Peek into the Gardens of Local Master Gardeners; Digital Photography; You Can Build a Web Album; Border Basics; Unlocking Your Garden Soil Potential; Herbs; Worm Composting and more. Cost is \$25 (includes classes, materials, lunch, exhibitor access and door prizes). Deadline is January 13. Sponsored by the McLean County Master Gardeners and Heartland Community College. Call 309-663-8306 for more information.

February 21: "Dig Into Spring", Knox Agri Center, Galesburg, IL. Participants can choose from 9 class topics. Sponsored by the Knox County Master Gardeners. Call 309-342-5108 for more information.

February 24-25: Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. Contact the Madison County office for information- 618-692-7700.

February 28: "Gardener's Pathway Workshop", Kishwaukee College, DeKalb, IL. This is the 4th annual day-long workshop for gardeners. For further information call the DeKalb County office at 815-758-8194.

February 28: Macoupin & Montgomery Garden Day, Lincoln Land Community College-Southern region Center, Litchfield, IL. Come hear the handful of local experts including Larry Mahan, author of "In Search of Large Trees" share their experiences. From butterfly gardening to native plant landscaping to a garden tool review, there's something for every gardener. Tickets \$3 in advance or \$5 at the door. Sponsored by Macoupin and Montgomery County Master Gardeners. For more information call 217-532-3941.

February 28: "Nursery School-Lessons in Gardening" Mark of the Quad Cities, Moline IL. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The day consists of 16 classes covering many different topics for the beginner and for the advanced gardener. Class topics include: Jazz Hot Blues; Border Basics; Right Tree, Right Place; Rise and Shine Seed Starting; Low Maintenance Landscaping; Dwarf Conifers and many more. Pre-registration is required. Cost for the day including all materials, breaks and lunch is \$39. See detailed brochure at www.extension.uiuc.edu/rico or call 309-796-0512

February 28: "Gardener's Day", U of I Extension Building, IL. State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL. This program offers both the beginner and the advanced gardener an opportunity to learn new ideas and time-proven methods in the world of gardening. U of I Extension specialists and local horticulture experts will offer nine one-hour seminars. Some of the topics include: Native Grasses; Xeriscaping; Weed Control; Growing Roses in Central Illinois; Plant Multiplication and Native Wildflowers. Pre-registration is highly encouraged. Registration fee is \$5 in advance (before Feb 13) and \$10 at the door. Sponsored by the Sangamon-Menard Master Gardeners. For a brochure, call 217-782-4617.

March 2-3: Small Fruit and Strawberry School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. 618-692-9434.

March 6: "Gardener's Palette", Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center, 639 York, Quincy, IL. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year's Gardener's Palette will feature 12 sessions on a variety of topics including Prairie Gardens; Ornamental Vines; Hydroponic Gardening; Organics; Bonsai; Perennial Garden Design and more. A vendor fair and doorprizes will be included. Gift certificates for the event are available. Call the Adams-Brown office at 217-223-8380 for a brochure.

March 6: 27th Annual "Gardening for Food and Fun", Rock Valley College- Stenstrom Center, Rockford, IL. 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Day-long workshop features over 21 classes on a variety of gardening topics. Register by February 15: \$15/person for a full day of classes; \$20/person for classes and a box lunch. After February 15: \$25/person for classes and box lunch. Hosted by the Winnebago County Master Gardeners. Call 815-986-4357 for more information.

March 9-10: ILCA Winter Seminar, Stonegate Conference Center, Hoffman Estates, IL. Topics for the homeowner and professional. Classes include: Insect Pest Management of Trees and Shrubs; Turf ID & Culture;

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Important Dates (cont.)

“What is that Tree’s Problem?”; and Turf Management. Sponsored by the Illinois Landscape Construction Association. 630-472-2851.

March 13-14: “Weekend Gardener Expo”, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. Vendors plus a wide array of speakers. Contact Janet Burnett for more information- 618-692-7700.

March 13- 21: Chicago Flower Show, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL. www.chicagoflower.com

March 13: Macomb Gardener’s Day For more information contact the McDonough Master Gardeners at 309-837-3939.

March 20: “2004 Gardener’s Big Day”, Canton, IL. The events will highlight a keynote speaker and 3 workshops covering a variety of lawn and garden topics. Spoon River College is offering gift certificates for \$18 each, which cover registration and lunch. Contact Spoon River College at 647-4645 Ext. 6031.

March 27: “A Day in the Garden”, Galena Convention Center, Galena, IL. The day begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast. The day features 20 workshop sessions including: Harvesting and Preserving the Season’s Bounty; Cooking with Herbs from Your Gourmet Garden; Vegetable Gardening in Containers; Pruning; Working with “Pint Sized” Gardeners; Wetlands Gardening plus many more. The keynote address will be given by staff members of the Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Gardens explaining the new Japanese Garden at their facility. Registration fee is \$20 and includes continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon snacks and all hand-out materials. Sponsored by the Jo-Carroll Unit Master Gardeners. 815-858-2273.

April 17: “Potpourri of Gardening”, Schilling Center in the Richland Community College, Decatur, IL. 8 a. m. to Noon. Sponsored by the Macon County Master Gardeners. 217-877-6042.

April 17: “Ready, Set, Grow”- Gardenfest-2004 McHenry County College, 8900 US Rt. 14, Crystal Lake, IL. Registration begins at 7:45am and the last session ends at 3:50pm. There are 44 classes on a variety of topics, from beginner to advanced,

including both lecture and practical sessions. New this year is a Gardening-101 track for the beginning gardener. Jim Fizzell is one of the featured speakers. Other instructors are Master Gardeners, U. of I. Extension Specialists and instructors from the McHenry County College Horticultural Program. The cost is \$35.00 and includes lunch. Some practical sessions require an additional \$10.00 lab fee for materials. Co-sponsored by the McHenry County Master Gardeners and McHenry County College. For information or a brochure, contact MCC at 815/455-8697 or the McHenry County Extension Office at 815/338-3737.

April 17: “Preserving Historic Trees: A Workshop on the Specialized Techniques Needed to Care for Aged Trees in Cultural Landscapes”, presented by Charles Pepper, Deputy Director of the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, a program of the National Park Service at Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Mt. Carroll, IL., 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This workshop is designed for Master Gardeners, and others, working with historic sites. Registration fee \$50, includes morning coffee and lunch; 10% discount for Master Gardeners and members of State Museum Associations. For additional information and registration materials, see the Campbell Center website at www.campbellcenter.org or call 815-244-1173.

April 17, May 15, June 12, July 10, August 21, Sept 25, October 2: Tazewell County Master Gardener Clinics. Clinics are at various locations. Seven free monthly clinics held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to Noon. No formal presentations but gardening questions will be answered at each clinic. Master gardeners with expertise in particular areas of interest will be available on each date. Call 309-347-6614 for more information.

April 24: “Tri-County Gardening Day”, Brandywine Holiday Inn, Peoria, IL. Registration will include a choice of three sessions, lunch and the keynote speaker. Vendors will be available for a little garden related shopping. The cost is \$30 for the all day event. Sponsored by the Master Gardeners of Woodford, Tazewell and Peoria Counties. Registration forms should be available by mid-Feb in the three offices and local garden shops.

September 9-11: Illinois Master Gardener Conference, Holiday Inn, Decatur, IL.

Deadline for submission of articles for the next issue is February 15, 2004.

Chairperson's Chat

It seems that seed and garden catalogs are arriving earlier each year. As you thumb through the color-filled catalogs, your expectations begin to arise about having that perfect vegetable garden or that perfect perennial bed. Master Gardeners know a lot about horticulture but there is always more knowledge that we eagerly seek to make our gardens more bountiful or more beautiful than the previous year. Do we seek that knowledge through training and reading books? Or, do we learn more by "hands on" experiences in our garden?

During the winter months there are training opportunities for Master Gardeners through workshops, Garden Days, and telenet series. Take advantage of those training opportunities and gain some new information and insight into better gardening methods.

Personally, when there is snow on the ground and the plant beds have been put to rest, I want to curl up in a large overstuffed chair or comfortable sofa and read my garden catalogs and dream. My dreams are about new plants to buy or new seeds to sow. Other questions arise as to: Shall I expand the garden beds and put in more plants? Shall I plan for bigger and better? Or, shall I decrease the size of the beds and go for specimen plants? Or shall I stay with the size that I have and clean out the beds of older plants and plant some newer plants? Shall I plant more annuals this year? Shall I add more containers?

The winter months are a great time for planning and rethinking our perennial beds and borders and our vegetable plots. Here are three main ideas to think about when dreaming and planning your spring plantings. First, how much time will you have to devote to maintenance of your garden? Do you have the time to spend at least one to two hours every day and four to six hours a day on the weekends? Often our dreams require more time in the garden than we expect.

Second, what size beds do you have and do you plan to increase them? Barbara Damrosch, in her book, *The Garden Primer*, suggests that if you only have a small amount of time to spend in your perennial garden, stick to one of moderate size, say between 10 and 20 feet long. If you make the bed as narrow as 3 feet wide, it will be easy to tend, and you will not have to worry as much about plants hiding one another, as you would with a wide border.

Third, what kind of plants do you want in your garden? Do you want only heirloom plants? Do you want all plants to start from seeds? Do you prefer perennials to annuals. Before you begin buying plants and seeds, make a plan and decide what kind of plants you want to have in your garden. When selecting your plants consider the placement of the plants, the soil conditions, need for sun or shade, and water conditions. Before spring announces itself, enjoy these winter months. Now is the time to slow down, relax, dream, make garden plans or attend a gardening training seminar.

✍ Mariellen Griffith

Innovative Container Gardening Program Comes To Illinois

The Illinois Master Gardener program recently became an event partner of the Horticulture Gardening Institute. In May 2004, the partnership will offer "The Art and Science of Container Gardening" program.



The Illinois and Indiana Master Gardener programs have joined together to co-present this program at one location in Illinois and one in Indiana. This is an exciting new opportunity to learn how to design and grow inspiring container gardens. A special daylong event will launch the program. Then participants will begin the self-paced, 12-week online educational program.

"The Art and Science of Container Gardening" program teaches basic and new skills through pre-recorded interviews with gardening experts. Some of the topics include Color Bowls, Bulbs in Containers, Containers For Your Health and Hanging Baskets and Floating Gardens. Participants will also test their new skills by submitting plans and growing container gardens. More details about "The Art and Science of Container Gardening" program will be announced in the next issue of our newsletter.

The Gardening Institute was launched in the fall of 2002 and more than a thousand Master Gardeners and gardening enthusiasts throughout the country have completed the program either through event partnerships with state Master Gardener programs or independently. To learn more visit the Horticulture Gardening Institute at www.gardeninginstitute.com.

Spotlight on.... Hancock County Master Gardeners

Our Hancock County Master Gardeners have had a very successful year! For being a relatively small group, we sure do keep busy! We began 2003 by having a MG promotional booth at Keokuk Eagle Days in January. This has become an annual event for us. We also had wonderful participation in the Four Seasons Telenet Series throughout this spring and summer.

In March, we decided to convert the herb garden at the Extension Office into a butterfly garden, so that continued as a summer project. We invited 4-H clubs in the county to make stepping stones to help with the landscaping. Our local newspaper included an article with wonderful color pictures and Master Gardener promotional information.

Several of our Master Gardeners continued to help maintain the landscaping at the Hancock County Courthouse by weeding and watering on a regular basis. Some also helped with Kids Conservation Day by hosting a Wildflowers station.

In October, several Master Gardeners sold bulbs as a fundraiser for our local MG program. We are also planning a bus trip to the Chicago Flower & Garden Show on March 16th, 2004 as an additional fundraiser.

 Kristin Huls, Master Gardener Coordinator

Help Identify the Cause of Oak Tatters

Researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, are initiating a research project to identify the cause or causes of oak tatters, starting in spring 2004. The term "oak tatters" refers to the malformations of newly developed leaves, most commonly observed in white oak species. For more information on oak tatters and to view pictures of symptoms, check out the Master Gardener website at www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/oaktatters

We are asking for help from Master Gardeners in identifying the cause or causes behind oak tatters. A survey will be mailed out in early 2004 to anyone who is interested in assisting us in identifying the cause of oak tatters. The questionnaire will focus on site conditions, proximity of the affected oak trees to corn and soybean fields, the species of oaks being affected and the extent of damage. Interested persons should contact Jayesh Samtani: *E-mail*: jsamtani@uiuc.edu

Your Garden Through the Seasons - Your Help is Needed!

Requests for a program showing different gardens through the seasons has been on my to do list for several years. I have pictures of my garden but am seeking assistance from MG's from across the state to submit photos of their own gardens through the seasons that I can use. This is a year-long project that will require uniformity and diligence.

This project would involve creating a photo journal of your garden(s) in 2004. Photos would need to be taken monthly in the same spot, at the same angle and preferably at the same time of day. I would ask for the journal to start as soon as you see green in late winter/early spring, and continue for 12 months. Choosing a garden site that has good 4-season interest is preferred. Starting with spring bulbs and blooming trees, moving through peonies, iris, daylilies, hydrangeas, black-eyed susans', fall asters, ornamental grasses, autumn foliage colors, dried seed heads, ornamental bark and a snow covered landscape gives you an idea of what I am looking for. You might not have all of what I listed or you might have other seasonal beauties, regardless the photos need to be of the same garden area.



I will be preparing a power point presentation so I will need these photos to be in digital format. You can email photos to me monthly and I will store them. This will eliminate processing and mailing costs. Your permission to use your photos is necessary. You will be asked to sign and submit a permission form. Credit will be given if desired. Plant material in each photo will need to be listed.

If you are interested please contact me at #309-836-2363, or email at smithma@uiuc.edu. Illinois has 3 different growing zones so representation from across the state is desired. Not all gardens submitted will be used. If time allows, I hope to visit the gardens selected and at that time review submitted photos.

Plant-A-Row for the Hungry

Success Stories



In 2000, realizing the need to feed the hungry in Illinois, the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener program adopted the Plant-A-Row for the Hungry project as a state program. Master Gardeners from counties around the state rallied to the cause in their home and community gardens. In 2002, Illinois Master Gardeners donated approximately 100,000 pounds of produce and in 2003 that number increased to 139,812 pounds.

Different county groups have implemented the program in different and creative ways to best fit the needs of local communities. For example, in Champaign County, Master Gardeners organize drop-off sites at local grocery stores as well as at a popular local Farmers Market. When the Farmers Market closes each Saturday, the farmers donate their unsold produce, which is then transported to the local food pantry sites. In DeKalb County, Master Gardeners organize and staff three pick-up locations for produce. The vegetables and fruit are then donated to three food pantries and senior centers. Master Gardeners from Montgomery County, collect produce for donation to the Salvation Army Battered Women's Shelter, Meals on Wheels, a substance abuse center and the local Housing Authority.

Several Master Gardener groups have planted large gardens with the sole purpose being to donate all the harvest to the needy. Peoria County plants a 40 foot by 75 foot garden each year at a local church with 25% of the produce being given to the church for distribution and 75% being donated to the Salvation Army. DuPage volunteers plant and maintain 2 community garden plots to provide fresh vegetables for the hungry.

Both Cook County North Suburban and McHenry County Master Gardeners have been recognized for their efforts with the PAR campaign. Both these counties received the Illinois Master Gardener Teamwork award for their efforts to feed the hungry in 2002. McHenry County volunteers planted and maintained two gardens. In order to publicize the program and increase community involvement, the gardeners organized and manned a booth at the local Gardenfest and gave talks to the community. One of the gardens, the Harvard Growing Together Garden is a community effort bringing community members, Master Gardeners and civic organizations together with a common goal.

Master Gardeners from North Suburban Cook County planted a vegetable garden at the Friendship Park Conservatory. Senior gardeners trained interns about growing, picking, harvesting, and cleaning the produce. The harvest is donated to the CEDA Center in Palatine for donation to the Palatine Township Pantry.

In late July at a Plant a Row donation site in Winnebago County, a regular donor mentioned to the Master Gardener that she had set a personal goal of 1000 pounds. Mona Brower is an avid vegetable gardener. She was disappointed that she no longer had enough relatives or co-workers with which to share the bounty of her garden. Then one day while listening to the University of Illinois Extension Garden show on her favorite radio station, she learned about the Plant A Row for the Hungry Program in Winnebago County. Mona was delighted because now she had a way to enjoy gardening and help others. Mona exceeded her 2003 donation goal by contributing 1145 pounds of vegetables and fruits from her backyard.

The mission of the University of Illinois Master Gardener program is "Helping Others Learn to Grow". Master Gardeners have incorporated their desire to educate others with their goal of feeding the hungry. The historic Plant-A-Row Garden in Jo-Carroll County is one example. This garden (a winner of the 2003 Illinois Master Gardener Teamwork award) is based at the Galena Historic Museum. The garden is planted with heirloom varieties and gardening is done with historically accurate techniques. Produce is donated to the Galena Food Pantry.

Educating young people about growing vegetables and improving their nutrition is another goal realized by Illinois Master Gardener volunteers. In Tazewell County, Master Gardeners (in conjunction with the "Leave No Child Behind" initiative) bring ICC affirmative action high school students into the garden to learn about vegetables and to grow food for the needy. During the last several school years, Master Gardeners from Moultrie-Douglas County have assisted 5th grade science classes from Arthur, to start plants to be transplanted into a Plant-A-Row for the Hungry garden behind the school.

The Plant-A-Row program in Illinois has been an overwhelming success. For each pound of produce donated, 4 people receive nutritious food. Therefore, in 2003 PAR benefited the health and well-being of over 559,248 residents of Illinois.

Illinois Master Gardeners Invited to Tri-State Conference

The Master Gardeners from Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin meet every other year to share their Horticulture experiences. This year's conference, sponsored by the Stearns County Minnesota Master Gardeners will be held at St. Johns University in Collegeville, MN on June 23-26, 2004. Illinois, North Dakota and South Dakota Master Gardeners have been invited to join the conference as well. Tours, classes and social events are all part of the fun. For a tentative schedule check the link on the Minnesota Master Gardener page at www.mg.umn.edu. Final schedules and registration information will be posted at a future date.

Imagine

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