



# Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,  
News and Education

Vol. 5 No. 3  
May-June 2004

## Coordinators' Comments

### State Master Gardener Award Nominations

It is time once again to honor exceptional Master Gardeners for their dedicated service to the University of Illinois Extension. There are three categories of state awards: State Outstanding Master Gardener, Sustained Excellence Award and the Teamwork Awards. The State Outstanding Master Gardener Award is for currently active Illinois Master Gardeners who have shown leadership and merit in volunteer service. The Sustained Excellence Award is for previous winners of the State Outstanding Award who have continued to demonstrate excellence. The Teamwork award is to recognize Master Gardener groups who have implemented outstanding or innovative programs in their local units or communities.

The state advisory committee has worked very hard to revise the applications in order to improve the selection process and honor those most deserving of the awards. Please read the new applications carefully as changes have been made.

#### Several key points:

★ In order to be eligible, volunteer hours **must have been completed on or before Dec 31, 2003**. Projects nominated for the teamwork awards must have been active in 2003.

★ **Criteria for selection has been added.** Please follow this criteria when choosing your candidates for nomination. The awards committee will be following these guidelines carefully when they review the applications and select the winners. It is imperative that you describe and detail the accomplishments of your nominees. Simply stating that "Joe Smith helped on the hotlines and did Hort Therapy"- won't result in your nominee being chosen. Please remember that although many of our volunteers are outstanding, these awards are to acknowledge "the best of the best".

★ Teamwork project applications must show planning and goals; implementation; how the goals were achieved and impact to the community or Master Gardener program.

★ Not everyone who is nominated will be chosen, so follow the criteria closely and let us know why your nominee/project is worthy of an award.

Nomination forms for these awards are available in unit offices or from your coordinator. If you think of someone who is deserving of these awards, ask your unit leader, unit educator or Master Gardener Coordinator about nominating that person for one of these awards. Awards will be presented at the State Master Gardener Conference awards banquet on Sept. 9 at the Holiday Inn Select in Decatur. **Nominations are due to the state office by June 18, 2004.**

## Opening for Master Gardener Advisory Committee



A Master Gardener is needed to fill one spot on the Master Gardener state advisory committee. The term of service is concluding for one representative from the East Central region. The advisory committee plays a key role in determining state policies as well as the future directions of the Illinois Master Gardener program. The committee meets four times per year—three times on campus and the day before the state conference. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please request an application from the state Master Gardener Office or check the website at [www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/). **Applications are due July 15<sup>th</sup>** and the 3-year term begins September 1, 2004.

✍ Monica David

## Important Dates

**May 19:** Spring Garden Seminar, Celebration 150 Banquet Hall, Utica, IL. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Class topics include: Creative Uses for Pavers, Problems of Deciduous Trees and Shrubs, Made for the Shade, What's Wrong with my Veggies? and Fragrant Plants. Cost is \$15 and the registration deadline is May 14. Sponsored by the LaSalle County Office. Contact the office to register at 815-433-0707.

**May 19:** Developing a Tree Management Plan for Your Business and Community, Katy Cavin Community Center, O'Fallon, IL. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lectures and hands-on classes about pruning methods, tree care and how to evaluate good tree work. Cost is \$30. Sponsored by the IL Arborists Association and IDNR. For more information call 877-617-8887 or check the website at [www.illinoisarborist.org](http://www.illinoisarborist.org)

**June 13:** "How Our Gardens Grow"- Decatur Area Garden Walk, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tour six private gardens in the Decatur area and the Decatur Public Library Gardens. A ticket to the walk includes refreshments and the chance to win door prizes. Tickets \$8 in advance or \$10 day of the walk. Sponsored by the Macon County Master Gardeners. For more information, call 217-877-6042.

**June 19:** Illinois Herb Association's Summerfest, Rockome Gardens, Arcola, IL. Educational seminars, workshops, demonstrations and a vendor fair will be offered. For information, contact Bill Rich at 217-728-7808 or [brich@moultrie.com](mailto:brich@moultrie.com)

**June 23-26:** Tristate Master Gardener Conference, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN. Sponsored by the Stearns County, MN Master Gardeners for Master Gardeners from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. Check the schedule on the website at [www.mg.umn.edu](http://www.mg.umn.edu). Early bird registration lasts until May 20th.

**June 26:** "Thru the Garden Gate" Garden Walk, Lincoln, IL. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The walk will feature ten local gardens showcasing annuals, perennials, water features and the Master Gardener's display garden. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$8 or \$10 the day of the event. Sponsored by the Logan County Master Gardeners. Contact the extension office at 217-732-8289.

**July 17-August 1:** Permaculture Design Certification, Stelle, IL. A 15 day hands-on workshop on the art and science of designing productive, sustainable, profitable ecosystems for people. For more information visit the website at [www.permaculture.com](http://www.permaculture.com)

**Deadline for submission of articles for the next issue is June 15.**

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## Spotlight on Lee County Master Gardeners

The Lee County Extension Master Gardeners maintain a call-in hotline every Monday and Thursday 9 a.m. to noon the first week of April to the last week of September. Our Extension Master Gardener library is open to all 4-H groups for project research and two public access computers are provided by the Extension Foundation and HEA for Lee County residents. Walk-ins to the Extension Master Gardener office are encouraged.

Extension Master Gardener's radio show is broadcast weekly and we have partnered with local newspapers to keep residents of Lee County abreast of our services. Each spring and fall Whiteside and Ogle Extension Master Gardeners join Lee County Extension Master Gardeners for "Ready Set Grow" and "Ready Set Fall" at Sauk Valley College in Dixon. Gardening classes for all levels of gardening expertise are offered. A continental breakfast is offered for both gardening days, and for "Ready Set Spring" a buffet lunch is provided along with door prizes. A display table is set up to showcase Extension programs.

Lee County Extension Master Gardeners are the fruit, vegetable, flowers, and herb judges at the Lee County 4-H Fair. Master Gardener volunteers offer a booth area for fair goers to sit and relax while reading University of Illinois publications and watch videos provided by Martha Smith, Extension Educator.

The Salsa Children's garden and the Kreider Butterfly Garden Club were initiated in 2003. Extension Master Gardeners taught Bee classes at Outdoor Stewardship Days. Tree identification was taught to Camp Clover participants and elementary school children in Paw Paw who planted a tree with the help of Lee County Master Gardeners. Lee County Extension Master Gardeners helped organize the Amboy Tree Board and take part in the annual planting of 24,000 petunias each year in Dixon.

 Maggie Oester, Lee County MG Coordinator

## Chairperson's Chat

Congratulations to all the new interns who have completed their Master Gardener classes either in the classroom or online. What an exciting time it must be for all of you who will begin your internship working in the office manning the phones, possibly doing "hands on work" in gardens, working with Jr. Master Gardening projects or other activities.

Being a Master Gardener is such a worthwhile volunteer activity. Our efforts add value to each individual we contact. The relationships we establish and the positive helping attitude we convey, all helps in promoting our goals in helping others to learn.

Although the Master Gardener classes have ended, the opportunities for learning never stop. The Master Gardener training program instills the thirst for knowledge, the wish for knowing more. One can never know enough. Learning is a never-ending process. Being a Master Gardener does not imply mastery of the subject, it is the beginning of knowledge of the field of horticulture. Remember to attend the State Master Gardener Conference in Decatur in September. There are so many new things to learn.

In May, I will be ending my two-year term as the Chairperson of the State Master Gardener Advisory Committee and two years as a committee member representing the East Central Region. In working on the Advisory Committee for the past four years, I served first with Denny Schrock, the State Master Gardener Coordinator for two years, and the last two years under Monica David, the present State Master Gardener Coordinator. It has been a real pleasure working with these two Coordinators and with all the Unit Leaders and Horticultural Educators representing their regions throughout the state of Illinois.

These four years have been productive times for the Advisory Committee. During that time the Committee has developed new University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Policies; University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Annual Volunteer Agreement; University of Illinois Extension Advanced Master Gardener Training Guidelines; Guidelines for Conducting University of Illinois Extension Plant Clinics at

Retail Sale Locations; and has adopted a new logo.

There are always beginnings and endings. As each door closes, a new door opens; as each season ends, a new season begins. As a new growing season begins, I hope each of you will continue to enjoy your own garden fully and I encourage each of you to continue your volunteer service as a Master Gardener in your county.

 Mariellen Griffith

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## All Roundups Are Not Created Equal

When you are shopping for Roundup this season be on the lookout for a new version. In the past, Roundup Concentrate was available for use around fruits and vegetables and for garden plot preparation. However, you may find a new product on the shelf called Roundup Concentrate Plus which has the additional active ingredient diquat dibromide. This provides for a much quicker kill. However, there is no mention on the label of use around fruits and vegetables and for garden plot preparation, which means it cannot be used in these areas. Potential diquat dibromide residues are the issue. This serves as a reminder to always read product labels carefully. Labels can change with little fanfare.

Michelle Wiesbrook  
Extension Specialist, Pesticide Safety Education

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## Did you know?



Did you know that Illinois Master Gardeners donated 140,551 hours of volunteer service to their communities in 2003? Seventy one extension units and 3,265 Master Gardeners reported these hours.

This group also recorded 34, 250 continuing education hours. Way to Go!

Did you know that April 18-24 was National Volunteer Week? Hope you recognized those great volunteers!

## Time Really Does Matter- Honoring Volunteers

The Illinois Master Gardener program has always been lucky to recruit excellent volunteers. Most volunteers stay three or four years and then because of family, job or other interests, move on with their lives and drop from the program. However, a core of dedicated volunteers have stayed the course and spent many years volunteering in the program. There are even a few who have made Master Gardening a 'career' and have focused their lives on giving service to others through our program. We are truly blessed to have these individuals in our organization. Since the state office began tracking volunteer hours in 2000, 74 Master Gardeners have given greater than 500 hours of volunteer service. We also have 10 Master Gardeners who have given greater than 1,000 hours of service as well as three who have logged over 1,500 hours in three years. Kudos and thanks go to all these volunteers.

<b>Judy Sager</b>	Crawford County	1082 hours
<b>Susan Lyons</b>	Lake County	1118 hours
<b>Patti Kirkpatrick</b>	Will County	1140 hours
<b>Bill Sullivan</b>	Peoria County	1168 hours
<b>Ron Maida</b>	Kendall County	1174 hours
<b>Charlynn Schweingruber</b>	Chicago Botanic Garden	1177 hours
<b>Linda Smith</b>	McLean County	1212 hours
<b>Hope Forcier</b>	Lake County	1282 hours
<b>Mariellen Griffith</b>	McLean County	1309 hours
<b>Carol McClure</b>	Champaign County	1447 hours
<b>Diana Husband</b>	Cook South Suburban	1800 hours
<b>Doug Wood</b>	Cook County	1823 hours
<b>Wayne Allen</b>	Knox County	1988 hours



I am also pleased to announce that we have four Master Gardeners who have volunteered over 2000 hours since the year 2000 as well as one who has over 3,500. To recognize these volunteers and as a thank-you, each of these Master Gardeners will receive a discount coupon to use when registering for the 2004 (or 2005) conference. Volunteers with >2,000 hours will receive a \$50 discount and Master Gardeners with over 3,000 hours will receive \$75 off the conference registration. Join me in congratulating these volunteers for their service and dedication.

*✍* Monica David, Illinois Master Gardener Coordinator

<b>Linda Kopacz</b>	Kendall County	2006 hours
<b>Alvin Hanzlik</b>	Kendall County	2053 hours
<b>Adrienna Lutter</b>	Kendall County	2077 hours
<b>Janice Cook</b>	Chicago Botanic Garden	2166 hours
<b>Joe Temple</b>	LaSalle County	3578 hours





# 2004 Master Gardener State Conference

Holiday Inn Select, Decatur, IL.  
September 9, 10, and 11

As a Master Gardener you've probably been "**Bitten by the Garden Love Bug**" and you won't want to miss this year's conference in Decatur. We will educate you, entertain you and offer you lots of opportunity to share your gardening experiences with fellow volunteers. Conference happenings are highlighted below.

## **Nationally Recognized Entomologist is Featured Keynote Speaker**

May Berenbaum, head of the University of Illinois Department of Entomology, is a leader in insect and plant research as well as a devoted teacher and advocate of scientific literacy. She has received the George Mercer award from the Ecological Society of America in recognition of her research on plant/insect interactions and the Founders award from the Entomological Society of America in acknowledgement of her contributions to the science of entomology. May has authored numerous magazine articles, as well as four books about insects for the general public. She has gained some measure of fame as the organizer of the Insect Fear Film Festival at the U of I, an annual celebration of Hollywood's entomological excesses, entering its 20th year. May's wit and humor in addressing both public and academic audiences has made her a nationally sought-after speaker. She will entertain and educate us with her talk entitled "Insects--Aliens from Planet Earth".

## **Concurrent Sessions and Workshops Offer Wide Variety**

Attendees will have a wide variety of programming to choose from, including 5 different workshops. Workshop topics include: Floral Design; Salsa-Making; and Tree Identification. Janet Macunovich, author, gardening columnist and owner of a landscape and design company called "Perennial Favorites", will lead a workshop on "Garden Design-- Making Use of Plants and Art". The 'Tree Amigos', three humorous professors from Ohio State University will entertain us with their workshop entitled " Diagnosing Plant Problems".

It won't be an easy task to choose from a great selection of class offerings. However, each attendee may choose 6 classes (90 minutes each) over the course of two days Friday and Saturday). A sampling of class topics include: Versatile Viburnums; Cucurbits and Pumpkins; Japanese Gardening; Tree Peonies; Home Irrigation; New Annuals and Perennials; Gardening with Kids; New Trends in IPM; Container Water Gardening; Tropicals; Permaculture; Surfing the Green Web and more. This year's line up of speakers is sensational. One highlight will be a talk by Pat Lanza, entitled "Lasagna Gardening". Pat is a writer, radio personality and winner of several national gardening awards.

## Tours, Tours and More Tours

Five exciting tour options have been planned for Thursday. Here are the highlights:

- **Robert Allerton Park and Monticello Private Gardens Tour** (all day tour)- The Robert Allerton Park consists of 1,500 acres of formal gardens, nature areas and the manor house. Spend the morning exploring at the park, and in the afternoon you will enjoy visiting several private gardens in the quaint town of Monticello.
- **University of Illinois Tour Sites** (all day tour)- One of our stops will be the campus arboretum which features gardens, collections, and different habitats. While there we will also stop at the Japan House and gardens, used as a classroom and a cultural center. A popular feature of the arboretum is the Champaign County Master Gardener Idea Garden. The garden is divided into six different areas, each with its own theme and guide sheet of plants. Another stop will be to view the Illinois Natural History Survey Insect Collection and Herbarium. The insect collection at the Survey houses over 6,000,000 curated specimens. The herbarium of the INHS contains about 180,000 specimens of vascular plants, in addition to fungi and bryophytes. A final stop will be a walk through the university greenhouses to see the latest horticulture research.
- **20 Minutes in the Life of a Tree** (morning and afternoon tours)- You will never look at tree planting the same after this workshop. These dynamic speakers will include an overview on how the root system of a tree grows and responds to planting. They will show planting methods for both a balled and burlaped and a containerized tree. The root systems of older trees are examined to show how improper planting can lead to severe problems, such as girdling roots and suckers and even death of the tree. This tour will be held at the Rock Springs Center in Decatur.
- **Mari-Mann Herb Farm** (morning and afternoon tours)-Visit one of the nations largest and oldest Herb Gardens that specializes in homeopathy as well as the harvesting, drying and preserving of herbs. This will be a tour and sampling experience. You will experience herbal tea or lemonade along with herbal cookies.
- **ADM Hydroponics Tour** (morning and afternoon tours)- This tour will visit the Rain Garden Hydroponics greenhouse at Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) Company. ADM has over 20 years experience perfecting the art of growing produce hydroponically utilizing heat, warmed water and carbon dioxide from manufacturing operations. Rain Garden produces lettuce, cucumbers, baby bok choy and various herbs.

## Poster Displays to be Awarded Certificates

Each unit is encouraged to bring a poster exhibit showcasing local projects and activities. Certificates will be awarded to participating counties. Please contact Fern Stinson (217-244-3144) or Barb Bodine (217-422-2057) for information and to reserve a spot.

## Plan to Attend Now!

Join us on September 9-11 in Decatur, IL. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Decatur Holiday Inn Select (800-465-4329 or 217-422-8800) at a conference rate of \$75 per night. Look for complete conference details and registration materials in the July-August Imagine.

# Advanced Master Gardener Tree I.D. Classes

Do you have trouble telling a white oak from a burr oak? Are you not quite sure what a *Taxodium distichum* is? Then the Advanced Master Gardener Tree I.D. class may be for you. You'll receive 24 hours of classroom and field instruction (that count towards your annual continuing education requirement), learning at least 70 trees that grow in your area of the state. This class will only be available to currently active Master Gardeners. However, if the class does not fill up, Master Gardener interns may enroll as well as though who have already taken the course. Interns if accepted, will not be eligible to receive the designation of Advanced Master Gardener. A section of the class will be taught in each region of the state so no one will have too far to travel. Please plan to attend all six class periods of the section for which you sign up. Participants will be allowed one excused absence (not the final exam day) but will be responsible for learning the missed material on their own. **Please note that all class periods will involve walking to observe trees in the field.**

Each section will have a minimum of 15 and maximum of 25 students. You'll receive class handouts to help in identifying the trees, a hand lens for seeing fine details of buds and twigs, and on successfully completing the course by attending at least 5 sessions in your section and passing the final exam, you'll receive a certificate and a pin identifying you as an Advanced Master Gardener in Tree I.D.

Cost of the class is \$50, payable to the University of Illinois. **Send registration** to the State Master Gardener Office, 1201 S. Dorner Dr., Urbana, IL 61801 **by June 11.**

Indicate with your registration form which section you are signing up for. Dates, times, locations and instructors for the sections of the class are:

**Section 1:** Instructor – Sharon Yiesla; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; June 28 – Chicago Botanic Garden, July 12 – Cantigny (Wheaton), July 19 – Cantigny, Aug. 2 – Cantigny, Aug. 9 – Chicago Botanic Garden, Aug. 30 – Chicago Botanic Garden (all class dates on Mon.)

**Section 2:** Instructor – Barb Larson; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; various locations in Rockford and Freeport and one trip to University of Wisc. Arboretum– Madison; Aug. 25, Sept. 1, 15, 22, 29, Oct. 6 (all class dates on Wed.)

**Section 3:** Instructor – Martha Smith; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Western Ill. Univ., Knox College and one site in Warren; July 27, Aug 10, 24, Sept. 7, 21 & Oct 5 (all class dates on Tues.)

**Section 4:** Instructor– Monica David; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Southern Illinois University campus –Edwardsville and second site to be determined: Sept. 1, 15, 22, 29 Oct. 6, 13 (all class dates on Wed.)

**Section 5:** Instructor– Sandy Mason; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; various locations in Champaign-Urbana, Sept. 17, 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (all sessions on Fri.)

**Section 6:** Instructor– David Robson; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 2 sessions each in Springfield, Peoria, and Bloomington, Sept. 1, 8, 22, 29, Oct. 13, 20 (all sessions on Weds.)

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## Advanced Master Gardener Training-Tree I.D.

### Reserve your space by June 11th, 2004

Please complete this registration form and return it along with your \$50 check made payable to the University of Illinois: Attn: Monica David, Illinois Master Gardener State Coordinator, 1201 S. Dorner Drive, Urbana, Il. 61801. Be sure to indicate which session you will attend.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

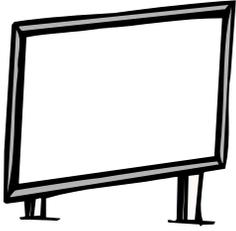
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Choose only one section:

Section I \_\_\_\_\_ Section 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Section 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Section 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Section 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Section 6 \_\_\_\_\_

## Master Gardener Signs Now Available for Purchase



Master Gardener signs are now on sale from Extension. The signs are 18 inches tall by 24 inches wide, are made of a heavy white water-resistant foam board type of material and include wire stands. The signs have the official Master Gardener logo on a white background. Cost is \$11 and the signs may be ordered via ITCS at 800-345-6087 or ACESPUBS@uiuc.edu. Item number is MKT-17E. These signs would make a great addition to your demo gardens, Plant-A-Row gardens or at the Extension office.

## Imagine

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



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