



# Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,  
News and Education

Vol. 6 No. 1  
Jan.-Feb. 2005

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## Coordinators' Comments

The number one statement I hear from Master Gardeners around the state is... "I wish we had more money for our program". Funding for Master Gardener programs requires two things these days—creativity and cooperation. Education programs should be set up to recoup costs for speakers, publicity, travel etc.-ie. cost recovery. However, each group must also put some thought into planning expenses before embarking on new programs or additions to pre-existing ones. I urge all county groups to sit down and plan a budget for each year. This should be done with your local coordinator and then plans must be discussed with the Unit Leader, who is responsible for fiscal matters in the county offices. Creative ways to find donations or grants may be needed to finance expenses for your programs. Don't forget local corporations like Home Depot, Walmart, your local greenhouse or organizations such as State Farm. Here is a list of some grant opportunities which may be helpful:

**National Gardening Association 2005 Youth Garden Grants**—provides a \$500 gift card for the purchase of garden materials. [www.kidsgardening.com](http://www.kidsgardening.com)

**Remember Me Rose School Garden Awards**—help for 20 programs to establish rose gardens to commemorate Sept. 11, 2001. [www.kidsgardening.com/awards.asp#rose](http://www.kidsgardening.com/awards.asp#rose) Deadline 1-31-05

**Mantis Award Program**—supports charitable and educational garden programs that enhance their communities. [www.kidsgardening.com/grants/mantis04-criteria.asp](http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/mantis04-criteria.asp) Deadline 3-31-05

**Healthy Sprouts and Garden Crusaders Awards**—offered through Gardeners Supply. [www.gardeners.com/gardening](http://www.gardeners.com/gardening)

**America-the Beautiful**—free seeds [www.America-the-beautiful.org](http://www.America-the-beautiful.org)

**Lorrie Otto Seeds**—monetary grants to organizations who work toward and promote natural landscapes [www.for-wild.org/seedmony.htm](http://www.for-wild.org/seedmony.htm) ✍️ Monica David

## Last But Not Least

The final class of Advanced Tree ID concluded in late October in Champaign. This group learned ID the hard way—without leaves in some cases. Join me in congratulating these graduates of the 2004 Advanced Master Gardener in Tree ID: Kathy Ahearn, Joe Ahearn, Lorene Benbow, Ann Bentley, JoAnn Chenell, Carl Cosand, Mike Cottle, Suzann Erlenbush, Robert Felgenhauer, Janet Glaser, Paul Gottshall, Sandy Klausman, Ray Kolodzeski, Jack Pfaffmann, Tom Rollinger, Alana Studebaker, Christine Tarant, Sandra Walker, Loren Wasson, Marge Workman and Lisa Wrage.

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## A Long Overdue Thank-You

The author of the Master Gardener manual index has been located. I wish to acknowledge the work of **Deanne Hozberlein**—Master Gardener from Calhoun-Jersey Unit and retired librarian. Her contribution has made life a lot easier for all of us as we search thru 700+ pages for information. The index (to print and add to your manual) is on the website under MG resources. Thanks to Deanne!

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## Search for Excellence- International MG Awards

Search for Excellence is the recognition program of Master Gardener volunteer work throughout the United States and Canada. SFE has seven categories in which Master Gardeners can demonstrate their outstanding contributions to their communities. All SFE applications must show that significant learning took place, whether by the Master Gardeners or the general public they were involved with. Many of our state projects are worthy of nomination for these awards. If your county has received a state teamwork award—this might be a good project to consider nominating. Talk with your local coordinator and check the guidelines at <http://mastergardener2005.usask.ca> Please note that the deadline for SFE applications is March 4th, 2005.

## Important Dates

**January 12-14:** ILCA Design Seminar, NIU Education Center, Hoffman Estates, IL. Three days each of Public Area Design, Private Space Design, Comprehensive Project Design, Hardscape Design, Graphic Presentation, Planting Design and a Thursday evening Charrette- a gathering of those in all class levels to tackle a small, comprehensive project under the facilitation of one or more instructors. [www.ilca.net](http://www.ilca.net) or 847-645-3000.

**January 19-21:** Mid-Am Trade Show and Mid Winter Conference, McCormick Place, Chicago, IL. [www.midam.org](http://www.midam.org)

**January 20-22:** 2005 Illinois Specialty Crops Conference, Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL.  
<http://www.specialtygrowers.org/>

**January 22:** "A Winter Day in the Garden", Zwermann Theatre, Lincoln Trail College, Robinson, IL. 8:30 am to 3 pm. Doors open at 7:30 am. Speakers include: Felder Rushing "Elements of a Fun Garden"; Greg Speichart "Stellar Solutions for Soggy Sites"; Nancy Clifton "Herbs: Cooking, Cosmetics and Crafts" and "Hypertufa"; and Heather Sherwood "Planting Trees and Shrubs". Registration fee \$30, includes snacks and lunch. Late registration fee \$40 after Jan. 10. Sponsored by the Crawford County Master Gardeners. 618-546-1549.

**January 29:** Urban Agriculture Symposium- "Exploring Economic and Community Opportunities through Urban Agriculture". Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park, Chicago, IL. Michael Hamm, Chair of Sustainable Agriculture at Michigan State University will present "Impacts of Urban Agriculture". Other presentations include "Building Coalitions for Change"; "Reclaiming City Lots; Economics of Urban Farms" and "Trends and Resources for Ag in Illinois". Pre-registration \$35 (January 20<sup>th</sup> deadline), \$45 at the door. Presented by U of I Extension and Chicago Fresh<sup>TM</sup>. 773-768-7779 or [peralta1@uiuc.edu](mailto:peralta1@uiuc.edu)

**February 1-2:** Pro-Hort Symposium, Holiday Inn, I-74, Peoria, IL. Class topics include: Shrubs, Natives vs. Non-Natives, Designing Spaces to Sustain Trees, Accessible Gardening, New Cultivars of Elms, Steps to Establish Natural Areas, Emerald Ash Borer and Sudden Oak Death. Contact Pro- Hort for more information 888-525-3900.

**February 1:** Southern Illinois Tree Fruit School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. 618-692-9434.

**February 2:** Southwestern Illinois Tree Fruit School, First Presbyterian Church, Hardin, IL. 618-692-9434.

**February 3:** Horticulture Magazine Symposium- Beyond the Garden Gate, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glen-coe, IL. Serene minimalism, historic landscapes reinterpreted for contemporary living, classic Japanese inspiration, or the essence of wild naturalism: garden design today is about steering clear of clichés and keeping an open mind. *Horticulture* magazine has invited four groundbreaking gardeners to share their personal approaches to developing residential gardens that soothe the spirit and reawaken the pleasure of being in the garden. \$119 for CBG members, \$129 for others. Visit [www.hortmag.com](http://www.hortmag.com) or call 877-436-7764.

**February 9:** Southern Illinois Vegetable Grower's School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. 618-692-9434.

**February 19:** Home, Lawn and Garden Day, Community Commons Building, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL. 8 am to 3 pm. Keynote speaker Dianne Noland, teaching associate at the University of Illinois, will present a talk on "Landscaping with Perennials". She will also teach a floral design workshop. Other sessions include; Gardening in the Shade, Water Gardening, Luscious Lawns, Illinois Native Plants, Gardening with Children, Propagation and Seed Starting, Top Annuals and Perennials, Birds and Butterflies in the Garden, Edible Landscaping, IPM and Stress Free Gardening. Fee is \$40 and includes, handouts, lunch and door prizes. Sponsored by the McLean County Master Gardeners. 309-663-8306.

**February 19:** Spring into Gardening- Gardener's Day 2005. U of I Extension Bld. #30, IL. State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL. Registration begins at 8:00 am, sessions are from 8:45 am to 12:05 pm. Nine one hour sessions include: Urban Tree Selection, Raising a Well-Mannered Houseplant, Daylilies, Roses, Patio and Wall Installation, Native Wildflowers, Butterflies, Common Sense Pest Control, and Angelonia to Zinnias. Fee is \$5 in advance or \$10 at the door. Sponsored by the Sangamon-Menard Master Gardeners. 217-782-4617.

**February 22-23:** Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL.

## Important Dates (cont.)

**February 26:** Gardeners Pathway Workshop, Kishwaukee College, Malta, IL. 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. Sponsored by the DeKalb County Master Gardeners. 815-758-8194.

**February 26:** Joys of Gardening, Highland Community College, Freeport, IL. The keynote address for the daylong event featuring displays and workshops will be “The Use of Natural Patterns in Japanese Gardens” by Tim Gruner from Anderson Gardens. Sponsored by the Stephenson County Master Gardeners. 815-235-4125.

**February 26:** Macoupin & Montgomery Garden Day, Lincoln Land Community College Southern Region Center, Litchfield, IL. Beginning at 8:45 a.m., Keynote speaker, Virginia Horrell, Missouri Botanical Garden, will discuss Container Gardening. There’s something for every gardener from beginning to advanced. Topics include Gardening in the Shade, Small Fruit Gardening, Flowering Shrubs, Daylilies, Native Plants, and Prairie Grasses. Tickets are \$5 in advance (before February 18<sup>th</sup>) or \$8 at the door. For a brochure, contact the Macoupin (217-854-9604) or Montgomery County Master Gardeners (217-532-3941).

**February 26:** Nursery School- Lessons in Gardening, The Mark of the Quad Cities, Moline, IL. 8 am to 4 pm. A wide array of sessions to choose from including Side Yards, Narrow Spaces; Picture This, Pruning, Japanese Beetles, Think Outside the Pot- Container Gardening; Murder They Planted; Four Seasons Gardening; Spring Lawn Care, Rain Gardens, Living Wreaths, Vines, Ornamental Grasses, and Invasives. Cost of \$40 includes all materials, breaks and lunch. Registration deadline Feb 1. Sponsored by the Rock Island Master Gardeners. 309-796-0512.

**March 1-2:** Illinois Small Fruit & Strawberry School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. 618-692-9434.

**March 4-5:** Garden Day 2005. Holiday Inn, Urbana, IL. Friday March 4 is for Master Gardeners only (\$20 fee) and features Tony Avent of Plant Delights Nursery. March 5 is a public program and the fee is \$55/ Master Gardeners and \$65 for the public. Speakers include Ken Druse, garden writer and photographer, Tony Avent, an international plant explorer and owner of Plant Delights Nursery, Erica Glasener, horticulturist, garden designer, writer and television personality, and Carol Reese, a horticulture specialist with the Uni-

ersity of Tennessee at Knoxville. Fee includes handouts, continental breakfast, buffet lunch and time to shop among garden vendors. Sponsored by the Champaign County Master Gardeners. For registration information call 333-7672, e-mail [champaign\\_co@extension.uiuc.edu](mailto:champaign_co@extension.uiuc.edu)

**March 5:** Gardening for Food and Fun, Stenstrom Center for Continuing Education, Rockford, IL. The event offers more than 20 workshops and seminars to choose from. Participants can learn about topics such as Container Gardening, Seed Starting, Cooking with Herbs, Water Features, Roses, Orchids and much more. The \$25 fee includes 4 sessions, continental breakfast, and Italian lunch buffet. Sponsored by the Winnebago County Master Gardeners. 815-986-4357.

**March 5:** Gardener’s Palette, Paul Heath Fine Art Center, John Wood Community College, Quincy, IL. Nationally known speaker and author, Pam Duthie will present the keynote address. Other sessions include orchids, learning to make leaf castings, perennial gardening, making your own gardening containers, blue gardens, roses, backyard vegetables, healthful herbs and more. Exhibits and vendors will be present. Advance registration (due by Feb 25) is \$25 and includes lunch, breaks and handouts. Walk-in registration will also be \$25 but will not include lunch. Sponsored by the Adams-Brown Master Gardeners. 217-223-8380.

**March 5:** St. Louis Gardening Symposium- New Perspectives on Plants and Landscapes. St. Louis Community College at Meramac, Theater Auditorium, St. Louis, MO. 8 am to 4 pm. Five internationally known speakers will present lectures. C. Colston Burrell- “A Whole New Perspective for the Home Front Landscape”; Ping Lim- “Shrub Roses”; Steve Vander Woude- “Compatible Shrubs and Trees”; Dennis Schrader- “Hot Plants for the Midwest- Tropicals” and Katy Moss Warner- “Horticulture and Gardening- Past, Present and Future”. Presented by the Horticulture Co-op of metro St. Louis. 314-487-7848 or [www.hortco-op.org](http://www.hortco-op.org).

**March 10-13:** The Midwest Gardening Symposium, Thornhill Education Center, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL. This symposium is sponsored by the Morton Arboretum and *Fine Gardening* magazine. Featured speakers include Keith Wiley – “On the Wild Side”; Rick Darke- “The Luminous Landscape: Darke on Light”; Chicagoland Grows – “New Plants for Midwest Gardens”; Bill Mitchell- “The Structure of the Garden”; Virginia Small- “Secrets to Successfully Combining

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## Important Dates (cont.)

Plants”; John Ball- “Trees: Selection and Planting; Kris Bactell- “Hydrangeas” and Rosemary Alexander – “The Essentials of Garden Design”. Register online at [www.mortonarb.org](http://www.mortonarb.org) or call 630-719-2468.

**March 12:** Weekend Gardeners Expo, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. Each participant will be able to choose four class sessions. Lunch is included and vendors will be present. Sponsored by the Madison- St. Clair Master Gardeners. 618-650-7050.

**March 12- 20:** Chicago Flower Show, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL. [www.chicagoflower.com](http://www.chicagoflower.com)

**March 19:** Macomb Gardeners Day, Western IL University, Macomb, IL. Registration 8:30 am, sessions begin at 9 am and run till 4 pm. Session topics are Salsa Gardening, Invasive Plants, Soil Testing, Four Seasons Gardening, Ornamental Grasses, Garden Photography, Heirloom Gardening, Fruit Tree Pruning and Must-Have Plants. Sponsored by the McDonough County Master Gardeners. 309-837-3939.

**March 26:** The Practical Side of Gardening, Danville Area Community College, Bremer Conference Center, Danville, IL. 8 am to 4 pm. The Keynote speaker will be HGTV’s Felder Rushing "Down Home Style Gardening". Other speakers include: Chicago Botanic Garden's Richard Hawke- “Perennials for All Seasons”; Country Arbors Shane Cultra-“New Plants for 2005” and Bob and Becky Whitmore from the American Hosta Society- “Hosta's of the Future”. Cost is \$30 and includes lunch. Pre-registration is important- seating is limited. Sponsored by the Vermilion County Master Gardeners. For information call Jan Bennett at 217-443-8778.

**April 2:** AM Garden Days, Blackhawk East Community College, Kewanee, IL. A half day of classes sponsored by the Henry County Master Gardeners. 309-853-1533.

**April 2:** Potpourri of Gardening, First United Methodist Church, Decatur, IL. 8 am to Noon. Classes include Plant Propagation, Weed ID, Invasive Plants, New Plant Introductions and more. Sponsored by the Macon County Master Gardeners. 217-877-6042.

**April 9:** Gardeners Big Day, Spoon River College, Canton, IL. Hosted by the Fulton County Master Gardeners. 309-647-4645.

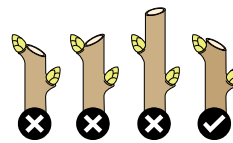
**April 13:** “The More You Know... The Better You Grow”- Spring Garden Workshop & Seminar, Celebrations, Rte. 150 near Utica, IL. Sponsored by the LaSalle County Master Gardeners. 815-433-0707 or [www.extension.uiuc.edu/lasalle](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/lasalle)

**April 16:** Gardenfest, McHenry Community College, Crystal Lake, IL. A full day of great topics and speakers. Sponsored by the McHenry County Master Gardeners. 815-338-3737.

**Deadline for submission of articles for the next issue is February 15, 2005.**

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## Learn Grafting or Organic Gardening at Home



If you've ever wanted to learn how to graft plants, here is your chance. The award-winning, hands-on distance education course *The How, When, and Why of Grafting for Gardeners* will teach you chip budding, T-budding, and top-wedge grafting. By focusing on the principles as well as the practices, you can apply what you learn to other species and methods, allowing you to propagate plants that don't root easily, graft several fruit varieties onto a single tree, or create unusual growth forms such as tree peonies.

If you are interested in organic gardening, but don't know where to start, this course is for you. Aimed at gardeners with some gardening experience, we cover fertility, pest control, cultural methods, tools, and more, including a variety of hands-on activities. We use organic gardening principles to explore vegetables, flowers and lawn care.

These non-credit courses include web-based lectures/readings, video demonstrations, hands-on activities, online quizzes and interactive discussions. The grafting course was developed by Dr. Ken Mudge, professor in Cornell's Department of Horticulture; the organic gardening course was developed by Charlie Mazza, extension associate at Cornell & Marguerite Wells, manager of Cornell's student organic farm.

The organic gardening course runs from Feb. 1 to March 31<sup>st</sup>. Registration deadline is January 25. Cost is \$200. The grafting course runs from March 1 to May 6. Registration deadline is February 23. Cost is \$300, which includes shipment of live hibiscus plants used in lab exercises, plus grafting knife & supplies. [www.cce.cornell.edu/hortdl](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/hortdl) or email [mw38@cornell.edu](mailto:mw38@cornell.edu).

## Chairperson's Chat

*Hi. My name is Sandy and I am a plant fanatic.*

Let's face it. We are plant fanatics. We love to discover a new plant and even better a new combination of plants. Just go to any garden center. The plant fanatics are easily recognized by their glassy eyes and distinct halo of contentment. They are often seen in public wearing Master Gardener name tags. Years ago while I was a newlywed my husband, who wasn't quite familiar with the extent of my fanaticism, asked me "Don't you have enough plants by now". My answer "But honey I don't have that plant".

I recently attended a fantastic program on New Ornamentals at Chicago Botanic Garden. One of the speakers was Richard Hawke who is the manager for the Chicago Botanic Gardens Plant Evaluations Program. I've heard him speak several times and I always take lots of notes in his programs.

CBG plant evaluations trials are impressive. Since 1982 Chicago Botanic Garden Plant Evaluations program has scientifically evaluated perennials, vines, annuals, shrubs and trees for their adaptability to the Midwest. Their Plant Evaluation Program is one of the largest and most diverse in the United States. It is also one of the few U.S. programs that formally evaluates perennials. The perennials are trialed a minimum of 4 years.


At this program he shared some his tried and true perennials for the Midwest. One that caught my eye was 'Elin' meadowrue (*Thalictrum*). It is a whopping nine feet tall for a moist shady area. It can take sun if it has plenty of water. The new leaves emerge purple then become a lovely blue green. Even though it's large, 'Elin' has a delicate lacy look.



Hawke shared that in his experiences at the trial gardens *Achillea* 'Angelique' was the best red yarrow. It tended to stay upright and not flop like 'Red Velvet'. Another yarrow *Achillea millefolium* 'Lilac Beauty' was another nice one because it stayed upright and was not too aggressive. Most of his plant recommendations had the improved performance of staying upright. Floppiness is only good with bunny ears. Bellflower *Campanula* 'Sarastro' has larger darker purple flowers than 'Kent Belle' and (you guessed it) it doesn't flop. We love new plants but it takes the growing of the plant to know if it does well in your area including your soil, your microclimates and your maintenance regime and if it does what the picture said it was suppose to do. Don't feel ashamed if plants die once and awhile. In fact I believe we have to kill a few plants in our quest to be

good gardeners. That's how we learn. That's how we learned that 'Limerock Ruby' *Coreopsis* just wasn't as hardy as it was reported to be. As Tony Avent of Plant Delights Nursery and Juniper Level Botanic Garden in North Carolina says "I consider every plant hardy until I have killed it myself...at least three times"

We learn from our experiences along with the experiences of others. That's what is great about the Master Gardener program. We get to share our successes and failures. I hope you will join us in Urbana March 4 and 5 at Garden Day 2005 – A breath of Spring where Tony Avent, author Ken Druse, HGTV's Erica Glasener and University of Tennessee Extension horticulturist Carol Reese will share their experiences with the new and the rediscovered plants to add to your garden. I guarantee they have killed a few plants in their gardens.

 Sandy Mason

Advisory Committee Chairperson

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## Sudden Oak Death Training

A training for Master Gardeners, nurseryman, arborists and landscape professionals has been scheduled for March 7, 2005 from 9 to 11 am. The training will be hosted at 40 sites though out the state. Check the Master Gardener website ([www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/)) for the location closest to you. Registration will begin at these host sites in January. Teleconference and PowerPoint presentations will be used to detail the SOD hosts, symptoms, epidemiology as well as the detection and response protocol for Illinois. Brief updates about several invasive pests of trees will also be provided.

This disease has gained nation-wide publicity after several nurseries on the West Coast unknowingly shipped *Phytophthora ramorum*-infected plants across the country earlier this year. The disease is now known to cause damage to a wide range of trees & ornamental plants. The pathogen causes two types of diseases: bark cankers that may kill the host and foliar blights called "ramorum blight" or "ramorum dieback" that serve as reservoirs for the pathogens. To date 28 plant species have been proven hosts and another 36 plants have been associated with the disease. Some of these species can be grown in Illinois & include Japanese pieris, Douglas fir, rhododendrons, witchhazels, viburnums, beeches, & lilacs. State & national survey efforts have detected SOD in 21 states. However to date, **SOD has not been detected in Illinois.** Come to this training sponsored by the Illinois SOD Task Force & learn more about Illinois efforts to ID & prepare for control of this disease. Questions? Call Monica David at 217-265-5256 or [modavid@uiuc.edu](mailto:modavid@uiuc.edu)

## Herb Day 2005

Join us for Herb Day on Saturday, January 29, from 8:00 am through 4:30 pm, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, Urbana, IL. The first educational session begins promptly at 9 am. Herbal experts include:

**Don Haynie**, designer, garden planner, and author, from Raphine, Virginia, will present two very different sessions. The first is entitled, *The Five Seasons at Buffalo Springs Herb Farm*, a slide tour around this magical place in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia plus Christmas in the restored 18<sup>th</sup> century home. Don's second session is titled *Floratherapy*, about blending visual beauty with wonderful, mood-enhancing scents.

**Jane Hawley Stevens**, from North Freedom, Wisconsin, who specializes in various herbal ointments, salves, lotions, and other skin and body products, will give a talk, called *Herbal*

*First Aid: Healing Potions from the Garden*.

**Pat Crocker**, noted herbal speaker, cooking demonstrator, and author of several entertaining books, from Neustadt, Ontario, Canada, will get us all in the mood for the lunch buffet with a demonstration called, *Come with Me to the Kasbah! Cooking with the Herbs of Morocco*.

**Jane Taylor**, who is now retired from Michigan State University, was the prime architect & driving force behind the creation & development of the 4-H Children's' Garden at MSU. She will speak about *Creating Magical Spaces*, interactive ways to bring children into the herb garden. Jane is in high demand by those wishing to develop successful interactive garden spaces for children, using the MSU garden as a model.

Attendees should register by January 21. Cost of registration, including lunch, is only \$45 per person. This includes seating in the lectures, coffee, tea, and rolls during morning registration, an herbal theme lunch buffet and access to the retail area. Reservations must be received by January 21, 2005, to guarantee lunch. Registrations will be allotted on a first come, first served basis, so reserve now. Those interested in attending should mail checks, payable to the **University of Illinois**, to: **Herb Day 2005**, Attn: Carol Preston, S-406 Turner Hall, 1102 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana, Illinois 61801 to reserve registration and lunch. For more information, call (217) 333-7738.



## Horticulture Gardening Institute— New Education Opportunities

In 2002, The Horticulture Gardening Institute was established as a national organization for gardeners. They are located on the campus of Michigan State University, and founders include MSU Global Ventures, the MSU Department of Horticulture and the MSU Extension Master Gardener Program. In 2004, The U of I. Master Gardener program joined on as a partner and sponsored a Container Gardening event. The Hort Gardening Institute offers online programs, face-to-face events, access to national gardening experts, online resources, certificates of completion and Master Gardener educational credits. New courses being released are:

### **The Art and Science of the SMARTGARDEN™**

This program is a companion to the American Horticultural Society (AHS) SMARTGARDEN® Regional Guides (four in all) published by DK Publishing. It is based on the AHS 10 Tenets of the SMARTGARDEN® which teach practices for good stewardship of the earth. Participants will learn to select plants that are compatible for local growing conditions, reassess gardening practices to achieve the greatest benefit from time and effort and measure every gardening decision in relation to its environmental impact.

### **Herbaceous Perennials for Sun and Shade: Identification, Culture and Garden Attributes**

These two programs were developed with Allan Armitage, one of the world's foremost gardening experts on perennials for all growing zones. Participants will learn how to identify growing conditions and propagation types as well as interesting facts about more than 100 outstanding herbaceous perennials for sun and shade. This will help gardeners make informed decisions when designing, selecting and growing perennials in the garden.

I am encouraging local groups to set up an event based on one of these topics. The typical event might feature 1 or 2 local speakers and an introduction to the online portion of the course. All participants will then have access to begin the online portion of the course. Registration cost would include the garden day as well as the online course. Both the garden event and the online course will count towards continuing education credits. The Hort Gardening Institute will help your group with promotion of the events. Encourage your local coordinator to sponsor an event for your county or your region. For help with setting up an event contact Monica Pilkey at [monica@gardeninginstitute.com](mailto:monica@gardeninginstitute.com) or visit the website at [www.gardeninginstitute.com](http://www.gardeninginstitute.com).

## Spotlight on Washington County Master Gardeners

Washington County Master Gardeners are small in number (11) but mighty in deed!! Their largest on-going venture is the Prairie Plant Project, for which the group received a State Teamwork Award this year at the IL State Master Gardeners Conference. This project includes field trips to collect seed native to Washington County. The seeds are then sorted, cleaned, stored and planted on a timely schedule in a plot of land at the extension office in Nashville. As with any wildflower planting, these Master Gardeners are looking at a 5-year establishment program. The goal is to preserve endangered native plants, educate the public and leave a legacy for future generations.

At the extension office is a demonstration garden, consisting of individually maintained raised beds, including one handicapped accessible bed. These beds are filled with a variety of plants, each with a theme. Knock out roses and lavender were added this year in the landscape.

All eleven Master Gardeners take turns writing weekly articles on horticulture which appear in 4 newspapers. Monthly planning meetings are well attended with plant and idea exchanges always being a lively part of the conversation.

Volunteers spent a sweltering day in July digging, dividing, cleaning and sorting a local gardener's huge iris beds. As the irises were donated, Master Gardeners used them to beautify different areas of the community, including the grounds of the Oakdale Grade School.

With Master Gardener supervision, Ashley Grade School students planted seed for a "cabbage patch". Throughout the summer the students maintained, harvested and then donated the produce to a local food pantry. It is worth noting – the cabbage heads were huge!! Good job kids!

Other projects are:

1. In March of every year, Master Gardeners present the HCE lesson on specified horticultural topics to all eleven HCE county units, using demonstration and power point presentations which they prepare.
2. Every spring the public looks forward to the Master Gardener plant swap day ---"Bring a plant, take home a plant".
3. Each year, volunteers fill containers with flowers at the Nashville Public Library as well as assist local

Jr. Library patrons in planting and maintaining an area there.

4. Several Master Gardeners assisted with the 4-H judging on horticulture in July at the Washington Co. Fair.
5. A 2-day Jr. Master Gardener Program taught basic horticulture and the respect for wildlife.
6. Volunteers built and maintain a flower garden at the Veterans Memorial in the Nashville City Park.
7. Informational booths at the Herb & Garden Show in Mt. Vernon, Nashville Garden Show, Centralia Garden Tour, and Centralia Fall Festival.

Each year they are well represented at the State Master Gardeners Conference with several attendees. They all enjoy the annual day trip to Missouri Botanical Gardens as well as group trips to metro east garden centers.

Lastly, the Washington County Master Gardeners have volunteered their group as the registration committee for the 2005 State Master Gardener Conference to be held in Collinsville next fall.

 Leora McTall & Wanda Bright, Master Gardeners

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## 2005 National JMG Specialist Training

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas  
February 22-23, 2005

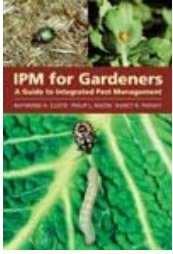


The National Junior Master Gardener® Program is growing good kids by igniting a passion for learning, success, and service through a unique gardening education. This dynamic and intensive 2-day training conference is designed for those

coordinating or supporting JMG programs at the local, regional and state level.

All attendees completing JMG Specialist Training will receive certification as a **JMG Specialist** by the National JMG Program office. Attendees will participate in JMG Program Presentations (including comprehensive program overview, current research findings, successful partnerships, best practices, developing community support and fundraising), panel discussion groups, hands-on workshops and networking sessions. In addition, registration includes a JMG Specialist Resource Book and a Presenter Kit with digital copies of presentations and sample training agendas. The conference registration cost of \$250 includes all sessions, 2 lunches, snacks, drinks and all materials distributed during the course. Register online at [www.jmgkids.com](http://www.jmgkids.com) by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

## ***IPM for Gardeners- A Guide to Integrated Pest Management***



Need some good reading for those cold winter nights? University of Illinois Specialists Ray Cloyd, Phil Nixon and Nancy Pataky have written a guide focusing on the fundamentals of IPM. This manual has distilled the core principles of IPM into clear day-to-day choices for the home gardener. It will lead the gardener thru ways to reduce pesticide usage, emphasize prevention and early diagnosis and practice long-term control strategies- not quick fixes. The book is authoritative, well illustrated and packed with case studies. *IPM for Gardeners* is available from Timber Press at [www.timberpress.com](http://www.timberpress.com) for \$27.95.

## **Imagine**

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,  
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