



Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,
News and Education

Vol. 6 No. 2
March-April 2005

Coordinators' Comments

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Elaine Smillie, Woodford County Unit Leader. She was a member of the Master Gardener State Advisory Committee and an advocate for Master Gardeners in her county and the entire state. Elaine was one of the driving forces behind the very popular Tri-County Gardening Day, a 2002 State Teamwork winning project. Elaine was truly a "class act" and Extension staff and Master Gardeners alike will truly miss her.

I want to welcome the 660 new trainees who are currently in training classes (60 brave souls are tackling their computers to take this course online). Thanks as well to all active Master Gardeners who reported their volunteer hours for 2004. We don't have them tabulated yet but check the next issue for state totals. Identification cards will be in the mail to your coordinators in early March. We also hope to be able to report the number of citizens in Illinois that were impacted by our educational efforts. The numbers appear to be staggering.. and we haven't even finished counting yet!

Please mark your calendars for this year's state conference to be held Sept 22-24 at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, IL. This years state conference, sponsored by the Master Gardeners from Southern Illinois, promises to be another winner. We are lining up excellent speakers, exciting tours and fun activities. The May-June issue will have updates on conference plans. June will be the time to submit applications for Outstanding Master Gardener, Sustained Excellence and Teamwork awards. Applications need to be signed and submitted by your local coordinator so make your suggestions directly to your local leader.

I hope to see many of you at the International Conference this summer in Saskatoon.

 Monica David, Master Gardener Coordinator

Garden Insects of North America

Whitney Cranshaw, professor and Extension Specialist from Colorado State University has produced a superb new guide to insects and mites affecting yard and garden plants in North America. This book is a great aid to insect identification and covers 1,420 different species. To simplify identification, it is organized by plant area affected. This great reference contains over 1400 photographs, 650 pages and weighs in at over 3 lbs! A must have book for your home library or Master Gardener office. The book retails at \$29.95 but Whitney is making the book available to Master Gardeners only, for \$25. He will sign every copy and personalize it for the recipient. The books are available through BugBooksDirect. Orders are best placed by email at bugbooksdirect@yahoo.com.

Master Gardener Apparel for Sale

Spring is almost upon us— it must be time to order Master Gardener apparel! This newsletter includes a color sell sheet and order blank for the 2005 apparel. Many of our popular items from previous years are still available. New items for spring 2005 include a car decal, water bottle, lunch cooler, a stretch denim shirt for women and a vest. Tee shirts are also available in new colors to accent your spring and summer wardrobe.

Please complete your order form and return it with your check (payable to the University of Illinois) to your local extension office. Credit cards cannot be accepted. **Check with your local Master Gardener Coordinator for his/her deadline for submitting orders to the unit office.** Do not send orders directly to the state office.

The total price includes shipping to the local Extension office. Please select your items carefully as all sales are final. **Please pick up your merchandise promptly after you are notified that the merchandise has arrived in your office. We will not be responsible for replacing damaged or missing apparel after July 15th, 2005.** 1

Important Dates

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

March 19: Macomb Gardeners Day, Western IL University, Macomb, IL. Registration 8:30 am, sessions begin at 9 am and run till 3 pm. Session topics are Invasive Plants, Soil Testing, Heirloom Flowers, Fruit Tree Pruning, Lawn Care, Diseases of Annuals & Perennials, Living Wreaths, Art in the Garden and more. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch. 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. Sponsored by the Vermilion County Master Gardeners. For information call Jan Bennett at 217-443-8778.

March 26: Ready, Set, Grow- Gardening 2005, Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon, IL. 9 am. to 3 pm. Participants choose 4 sessions to attend. Topics include: Best Bets--Annuals and Perennials; Hardscaping; Miniature Gardens; Invasive Plants; Nuisance Wildlife; Container Gardening; Vines; Unusual and Hard to Find Plants; Scented Gardens; Backyard Habitat; Choosing and Applying Pesticides; "Blues" in the Garden; Hypertufa Containers; and Spring Woodland Wildflowers. The cost is \$25 per person and includes continental breakfast and lunch. There is an additional charge of \$15 for those making hypertufa containers. Sponsored by the Lee, Ogle and Whiteside County Master Gardeners. For more information, call 815/772-4075.

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/Invasive Plant ID, New Plant Introductions, Orchids, Water Gardening and Floral Arranging. Orchids from the Illini Orchid Club will be for sale. Fee is \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Sponsored by the Macon County Master Gardeners. 217-877-6042.

April 7: Gear Up for Gardening, Edgar County 4-H Fairgrounds, Paris, IL. Three class sessions, lunch and door prizes are included in the \$7 fee. Topics include Hydroponic Vegetable Gardening; What's New at the Nursery and Spheres/Hypertufa. Sponsored by the Edgar County Master Gardeners. 217-465-8585.

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

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.

June 12: How Our Gardens Grow- Garden Walk, Decatur, IL. Tour a collection of private gardens, a Memorial Garden, Green Thumb Gardens & the Decatur Public Library Garden. \$8 in advance, \$10 day of the walk. Sponsored by the Macon County Master Gardeners. 217-877-6042.

July 30 & 31: A Walk in the Garden, Savanna, IL. Saturday 9 am. to 5 pm; Sunday 10 am. to 5 pm. Garden tours and programs will be featured. Tour begins at 1723 Portland Ave., Savanna. Program topics include: Easy Pond Care; Low Maintenance Perennials; The Importance of Soil Testing; Lasagna Gardening; Composting and Container Plants & Tropicals. Donations accepted. Sponsored by the Carroll County Master Gardeners. 815-244-9444.

September 22-24: Illinois Master Gardener Conference, Collinsville IL.

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

Chairperson's Chat

A labor of love

Perhaps your new year's resolution to eat healthy food, lose weight and exercise more is as faint a memory as last year's petunias. But March does not have to mean an end to our renewed commitment to have a healthier lifestyle. What if I told you there is an activity that can provide strength and cardio training and increase flexibility. Plus the activity can relieve stress and provide nutritious food. You get all that and you don't have to buy an expensive towel rack called a treadmill to do it.

No surprise this wonder activity is gardening. What's even better is we don't think about it as working out because we are having so much fun. I read somewhere that "gardening is a labor of love. A treadmill is just labor".

Gardening provides the regular physical exercise listed in the prevention of heart disease, obesity, adult-onset diabetes and high blood pressure. It also provides the strength training important in the prevention of osteoporosis. Put a gallon sprinkling can full of water in each hand and you got your 8 pound dumbbells. Finish off with lifting a wheelbarrow and you got your bicep workout.

According to Denis Foley in Prevention Magazine a 180 pound person burns the following calories in 30 minutes. Notice couch potatoes and mouse potatoes are expending about the same amount of energy as sleeping.

Sleeping 36

Sitting quietly watching TV or using computer 40

Watering lawn or garden 61

Mowing lawn with riding mower 101

Trimming shrubs with power tools 142

Trimming shrubs with manual tools 182

Bagging or raking leaves, 162

Planting trees 182

Weeding 182


Digging/spading 202

General gardening 202

Mowing lawn with push mower 243

Double digging 344

Gardening also reduces stress, promotes creativity and optimism and connects us to nature. We garden because we love the process and the product. Sometimes we forget just how healthy an activity it is. As we help others learn to grow, let's remind them of what a healthy gift they are giving themselves.

 Sandy Mason

MG Advisory Committee Chairperson

International MG Conference

The Master Gardeners of Saskatchewan invite you to be their guest at the 10th International Master Gardener conference on July 24-27 in Saskatoon, Canada. The conference coincides with the Province Saskatchewan's centennial celebration, hence the name "100 Years of Gardening on the Canadian Prairies". Keynote speaker, David Tarant will make us aware of how our passion for gardening links humankind worldwide through his talk "A Global Look at Gardens". Also featured on the program is keynote speaker David Cavagnaro who will highlight heirloom plants in a presentation titled "Gardener's Legacy— A Heritage of Plants". Workshops include Botanical Printing, Budding & Grafting, Hypertufa, and Propagation of Tropical Plants. Classes selections are too numerous to list here but be sure to check out the conference information for class descriptions. A few unusual topics include: How to Write for Gardening Publications; BBC Neighborhood Gardens; Gardening for Cats and Restoring a Heritage Garden.



The tours are sure to be the highlight of the conference. A 4 day pre-conference tour will be to the Boreal Forest of Northern Saskatchewan. This trip has time for visiting gardens, shopping, and guided nature walks. The post conference tour is a 6 day trip through the Canadian Rockies. Tour highlights are Calgary, Banff, Jasper, and Lake Louise. Enjoy a myriad of gardens and guided walks through diverse ecosystems from the Badlands of Alberta to Rocky Mountain Meadows. Conference tours include a Manitou Lake Day Spa tour; City Gardens Tour in Saskatoon; Garden Theatre Workshop; Hort therapy Tour; MG Community Projects Tour and much much more.

The conference will also include presentation of the International Search for Excellence Awards; an Art Show & Sale and the Taste of Saskatchewan Banquet. The opportunities for education, entertainment and sharing are endless.

For a complete brochure and registration materials, visit the website at www.mastergardener2005.usask.ca Fees for the core conference are \$348 by April 30th and \$423 after April 30th. Most tour costs are additional. For more information call 306-966-5546 or email imgc.2005@usask.ca

Spotlight on Boone County Master Gardeners

At the top of Illinois sits the small county of Boone. Once known for its rolling prairies, it soon gave way to agriculture. Being so far north Boone shares much more in common with southern Wisconsin than it does with most other parts of Illinois.

In the midst of this rural community you will find the Master Gardeners of Boone County. They have grown to 26 strong, active and energized Master Gardeners whose efforts are focused on making an impact on the community.

Beginning about ten years ago a very small group of Master Gardeners started an herb garden representing herbs used the kitchen. Each year as the number of volunteers increased so did the number of garden areas. There are now six different gardens ranging from fragrance to potpourri gardens. The Demonstration Garden is located at the Boone County Conservation District and presents an open invitation to all visitors to browse and touch.

Being that the Demonstration Garden is located at the Conservation District these Master Gardeners have the opportunity to participate in their Annual Garden Walk and the Autumn Pioneer Festival. These activities allow the Master Gardeners to remain a focal point within the community as they continue to serve the residents.

Not their style to be content with only one project, these Master Gardeners also maintain the gardens at a local nursing home. They have created gardens around the property that welcomes visitors and brings pleasure to the residents. Last year they rebuilt some raised beds that had deteriorated. Now the residents, whether in a wheelchair or with a walker can participate in gardening activities.

In addition to these great community projects the Boone Master Gardeners operate the Hotline Help Desk, contribute to articles for the local newspaper, assist in a local garden center in the spring, speak to garden clubs and other organizations, teach gardening related topics for children & assist at our county fair.

For all the community minded activities these Master Gardeners are involved in there is one very special element that exists. They all like to get together with their fellow master gardeners for regular potlucks and some great social time. What a pleasure it has been to work with this wonderful group of people who share a common interest. Boone County is very fortunate to have their Master Gardeners.

 Karen Durtschi, MG Coordinator Boone County

Purdue Releases New Plant Propagation CD-ROM

Purdue University is excited to announce a unique new gardening resource that Master Gardeners will find of interest. Purdue's "Plant Propagation" CD-ROM is like a well-illustrated book AND a hands-on class- only better!

In "Plant Propagation" you'll read about each propagation technique and then see how it's done. There are 52 videos that show everything from the simplest planting of a seed to the complexities of grafting. Not interested in grafting? That's ok. The course is designed so you can select the areas you want to cover and skip the rest.

"Plant Propagation" has lots of neat features. There are hundreds of photos. We've created over 45 animations and graphics to aid in understanding. Need the definition of a word? Check out the GLOSSARY, complete with pronunciation of 50 of the more unusual words. Decided to take up grafting and need stocks and scions? The REFERENCE section lists sources. Need a review of some plant BASICS? You'll find information on stems and roots, vermiculite and perlite, even growth hormone in this introductory section.



"Plant Propagation" is fun, too. TEST YOURSELF has 32 short quizzes, many of them with interactive graphics. One of our evaluators stated "TEST YOURSELF was great (even my teenage kids did that part)." Although "Plant Propagation" was created with Master Gardeners in mind, all gardeners can benefit from this unique "class." For those that would like a preview before they buy, we've put the layering chapter on line at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/plantprop/WebVersion/Intro.html>

"Plant Propagation" can be purchased directly from Purdue University for \$40 either by calling toll free to 1-888-EXT-INFO or online at <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/new/>. Discounts are available for orders of 25 or more.

You can also download a printable order form at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/PropOrderForm.pdf>.

If you have any questions contact:

Mary Welch-Keesey
(317) 630-3257
marywk@purdue.edu

or Rosie Lerner
(765) 494-1311
rosie@purdue.edu

National JMG_{sm} Group of the Month

Prairie State Roadrunners Will County, Illinois



The Prairie State Roadrunners, under the direction of Patricia Lopez, had a very busy year with community activities. The group was responsible for planning, planting, weeding and monthly care of the Joliet Public Library Children's Garden.

This past summer this hardworking group created a Three Sisters Native American Garden at the Isle-a-la-Cache Museum in Romeoville, IL. The kids started the heritage seeds to plant in the garden. They tilled the soil and added amendments to it and then planted the seedlings and seeds. These hard workers weeded and cared for their garden once a week all summer.

Also the kids dressed in period costume at the yearly history reenactment and explained to the visitors about the Three Sister's Native American Garden. The kids made authentic Native American bone tools: bone shovels, antler rakes, and bone hand trowels out of bones supplied by the museum. They explained and demonstrated to the visitors how these tools were used in the Three Sisters Garden. The Isle-a-la-Cache museum also presented the kids with an award for outstanding group effort of the year. Congratulations to this outstanding group of young people!

Interested in starting your own JMG group?

Would you like to start a JMG_{sm} group in your community? The curriculum can be purchased online at www.jmgkids.com. Manuals are available for 3-5 grade and 6-8 grade. Curriculum for specialized areas such as "Wildlife Gardener" and "Health and Nutrition from the Garden" are also available. "Literature in the Garden" is currently under construction and will be released in late 2005.

What is the Division of Academic Outreach at the University of Illinois?

Have you ever just wanted to take a course, but not get a degree? Or are you looking for a certificate in an area of expertise, or a degree to change careers? The Division of Academic Outreach (AO) at the University of Illinois can make that happen for you! Academic Outreach is the academic "extension" for the UIUC campus and provides degrees, certificates and training to those not able to come to campus.

Academic Outreach is a division of the Office of Continuing Education (OCE) which oversees Allerton Park, and is comprised of other divisions such as Summer Programs, Conferences and Institutes, and Chicago Programs. Each year the Office of Continuing Education provides undergraduate, graduate, and professional development programs that link more than 75,000 citizens of Illinois and beyond to the University. Another 100,000 people participate in personal enrichment programs and enjoy Allerton Park, music events, and speakers made possible through OCE.

Heather Miller, a Champaign Master Gardener, works for Academic Outreach and is the Program Director for all degree, certificate and non-credit programming in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. She oversees current degree and certificate programs in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, Crop Sciences, Food Science, Agricultural Education and Animal Science. Heather has been able to help create some educational opportunities that will be available to Master Gardeners!

Academic Outreach, in conjunction with the College of ACES is offering a course this summer (and some upcoming opportunities yet to be announced) that would apply for a newly approved "Advanced Master Gardener" training. This new certification area will be in diseases. Plant Pathology 405—Plant Disease Diagnostics, will be offered in two locations this summer in short form format at both the Morton Arboretum and at the Urbana-Champaign campus. By completing either of these sessions Master Gardeners would receive the Advanced Master Gardener Certification in Diseases. Stay posted for additional offerings for the new certification area!

For more information please contact Heather Miller at 217-265-6568 or hmiller1@uiuc.edu.



Summer 2005 Course Offering

PLPA 405, Plant Disease Diagnosis — Section A **2 Credit hours**

Tuition and Fees: \$175 non-credit/\$518 graduate credit/\$474 undergraduate
Lab/lecture and two local field trips.

Dates: 6/27 to 7/20 — 4 weeks
Mondays and Wednesdays

Times: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Location: UIUC Campus, Urbana

Instructor: Dr. Mohammad Babadoost
Assistant Professor of Plant Physiology
Department of Crop Sciences

Attention Master Gardeners! This will fulfill the requirements of the newly approved **Advanced Master Gardener Certification in Plant Diseases**.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Plant Disease Diagnosis (PLPA 405) is an important course because the first step in an effective disease management program is proper identification of the problem. This course will focus on field and laboratory techniques in plant disease diagnosis and appraisal; identification of diseases of all crops including ornamentals, turf, forest and shade trees, fruit crops, vegetables, and field crops. In this course, hands-on experience will be emphasized. Students will be responsible for collection and identification of at least 10 unknown plant disease specimens, which provides an opportunity to apply their newly-acquired knowledge and to become self-confident in disease diagnosis. By the end of this course, students will be able to: use appropriate techniques for sampling and maintaining diseased plant; diagnose disease in field and laboratory; identify infectious diseases from physiological disorders; identify diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, viruses, and nematodes; and use acquired knowledge to identify the causal agents of plant diseases.

To register, please visit: <http://www.continuinged.uiuc.edu/outreach/enrollment.cfm>

For more information contact:

Heather A. Miller
Academic Outreach Program Coordinator
College of ACES
N121 Turner Hall MC-046
1102 South Goodwin Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801
Office phone: 217-265-6568
E-mail: hmiller1@uiuc.edu





Summer 2005 Course Offering

PLPA 405, Plant Disease Diagnosis — Section B **2 credit hours**

Tuition and Fees: \$518 graduate credit / \$474 undergraduate / \$175 non-credit
Lab/lecture format.

Dates: 6/7 to 7/12 — 6 weeks
Tuesdays

Times: 6:30 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

Location: Morton Arboretum

Instructor: Dr. Fred Miller
Adjunct Assistant Professor
Department of NRES

Attention Master Gardeners! This will fulfill the requirements of the newly approved **Advanced Master Gardener Certification in Plant Diseases**.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an in-depth and comprehensive study of the principles and practices of the major plant disorders of horticulture crops including a systematic approach to recognizing and identifying abiotic (i.e. pollution, pesticides, weather, nutrient deficiencies, soil factors) and biotic (i.e. arthropods, pathogens, wildlife) plant disorders, recognizing signs and symptoms, role of causal agents in plant disorders, suggested management practices for mitigating plant disorders, and relationships between vectors of plant disorders and host susceptibility. A working knowledge of arthropod life cycles and biology, plant pathology, and plant anatomy is helpful, but not required.

To register, please visit: <http://www.continuinged.uiuc.edu/outreach/enrollment.cfm>

For more information contact:

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2005 National Garden Month Campaign

The National Gardening Association has chosen “Give a Garden-Add Beauty to Life” as the theme for April 2005 National Garden Month. NGA announces the premier sponsors for this campaign– Miracle-Gro, Nursery Select, Hilton Garden Inn, Subaru of America, Black and Decker and Proven Winners. This campaign calls on kids, parents, students, teachers, companies and their employees to plant a container garden and pass it on. Local garden centers will be hosting “Give a Garden-Add Beauty to Life” workshops for families, offering supplies with “how-to” instructions to personalize container gardens for giving. Classrooms across the country will be participating in garden-sharing activities. Companies will donate staff time to give gardens in their communities.

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