



Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,
News and Education

Vol. 6 No. 3
May-June 2005

Coordinators' Comments

There is still time to register for the International Master Gardener Conference on July 24-27 in Saskatoon, Canada. The agenda includes a huge selection of classes, outstanding tours, a trade show and exhibition, Gardening on the Prairie Art Show and Sale, Taste of Saskatchewan Banquet and presentation of the Search for Excellence Awards. The Early Bird deadline for registration has been extended until May 16th - so don't wait, sign up now! Check the conference website at www.mastergardener.2005.usask.ca

It is time once again to nominate exceptional Master Gardeners for state awards. There are three categories of awards: State Outstanding Master Gardener; Sustained Excellence and the Teamwork Award. 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 advisory committee will review the nominations and select the winners. If you think of someone who is deserving of an award, ask your unit leader or Master Gardener Coordinator about nominating that person for one of these awards. All award nominations need to be signed and approved by the local coordinator before submission. Awards will be presented at the state conference awards banquet on Sept 22 at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville. **Nominations are due to the state office by June 17th, 2005.**

Each year, Master Gardeners record their volunteer and continuing education hours and those hours make their way to the state office. This year (and in future years) I will ask each of you to record the number of

clients you reach. Many of you have already recorded these hours for your unit's annual report. This information includes things like number of client questions answered on the hotline, number of elderly persons who participated in your Horticulture Therapy or the number of children who attended your youth programs. The numbers for 2004 exceeded even my expectations! So here is a report of how many hours were donated and just how many people you reached with your programming efforts. Thanks to all of you for your contributions & for taking the time to help with record keeping. ✍ Monica David, State Coordinator

2004 volunteer hours (for 74 of 78 units) = **146,547**

2004 continuing education hours = **34,386**

2004 Active Master Gardeners & Interns = **3,380**

2005 Trainees= **659** (57 of those taking the class online)

Clients Served Data for 51 of 78 units

Hotlines or walk-ins	57,096
Off-site answer booths	21,843
Talks given by MGs	11,789
Other individual projects	715
Hort Therapy- elderly	5,481
Hort Therapy- disabled	1,679
Hort Therapy- incarcerated	300
Garden Days	3,031
Garden Walks	11,308
Community Beautification	250,808
Other group projects	193,371
Junior Master Gardener	1,149
Youth programs	10,554
Youth summer camps	1,250
4-H judging	2,538
Other youth projects	553
Total Contacts for 51 units	586,156

Chairperson's Chat

We don't need to look far to see celebrity product endorsements. I'm sure the stock in any company rockets up the minute Oprah mentions it as one of her favorite things. Oprah and I don't travel in the same circles but I guess I would like to think we do and that because of her "worldly" experience I assume she should some how no more than I do on what the best sheets are.

You may not consider yourself a celebrity as a Master Gardener but you are a local celebrity. How many times have people come up to you in the grocery store and asked you something about gardening just because they know you completed training. They don't wait and call you at the office. The lines between Master Gardener and local garden citizen are very blurry at times. This blurry line even covers our relatives. People ask my husband garden questions as though through osmosis he knows what I know.

It is one thing to recommend something as a gardener and another to recommend it as a Master Gardener. Extension educators and Master Gardeners have to work diligently to keep the line clear.

When recommending pesticides from *The Home, Yard and Garden Pest Guide*, I recommend copying for the client the appropriate page such as spider mites on flowers then also giving the client a copy of the corresponding page of table 6 that starts on page 27. That way the client can go to the store of their choosing and select the appropriate insecticide that as table 6 tells us is sold under many trade names. Now if you have no idea what book I am referring to, it's time for a visual trip through your Master Gardener library at the Extension office. Also your Master Gardener coordinator may want you to do this differently so strike from the record what I just wrote.

Avoid recommending any lawn care company, arborist or garden center over another. Clients want us to do this but don't crack under the pressure. In Champaign County we have a list of all the certified arborists in our county and we give this to clients. Remember we are obligated to give unbiased information even when it comes to recommendations. I struggle with remaining neutral all the time.

If you include any websites or company names in an article or recommendation, the following or something to the same effect is the appropriate wording.

Many gardeners have found the following websites* useful: [www.example](#) *URLs of sites not affiliated with University of Illinois Extension are provided solely for the convenience of our clients. Reference to specific external websites, companies or trade names does not imply endorsement by University of Illinois Extension

nor is discrimination intended against any that are not listed.

Master Gardener volunteers work on behalf of and under the supervision of University of Illinois Extension. The title "**University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener**" and "**Master Gardener**" are to be used only and exclusively in the Master Gardener program in which the trained and certified Master Gardeners conduct educational programs and answer gardening questions to assist University of Illinois Extension. When an individual ceases to actively participate, their designation as a Master Gardener becomes void.

A Master Gardener should not display credentials or give the appearance of being a Master Gardener at a place of business unless that place is conducting an authorized Master Gardener activity. It is improper to imply that University of Illinois Extension endorses any product or place of business. Master Gardeners must not use their title in any form of advertisement.

In my mind there is nothing wrong with putting on a resume that you completed Master Gardener training but when getting a paid job it should end there.

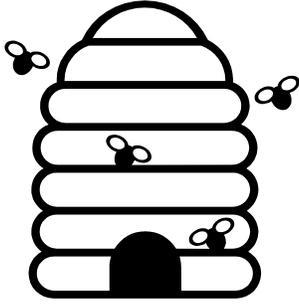
I guarantee Oprah doesn't have to go through this. But then again she doesn't claim to be unbiased or research based. The information we hand out and take in should always keep that fact in mind.  Sandy Mason

Spotlight on Chicago Botanic Garden Master Gardeners

The Chicago Botanic Garden's Master Gardeners are busy all year long, but it seems the winter and spring seasons are especially engaging and noteworthy. The 200 Master Gardeners volunteer in many different areas of the Garden, including the Buehler Enabling Garden, the Native Habitats (which include the Skokie River, McDonald Woods and the Dixon Prairie), the Fruit and Vegetable Garden, Plant Information and many others. Ninety additional Master Gardeners just recently finished their training. In 2004, Master Gardeners at the Chicago Botanic Garden responded to 30,000 questions from visitors to the garden.

One of the events many CBG Master Gardeners were involved in was the 11th annual Chicago Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier (March 12-20). At this show, these Master Gardeners staffed the "Plant Doctor" booth. This booth resembles the workplace of extension offices and is equipped with research materials to assist in answering the public's questions.

The theme of the show this year was "All Aboard, Chicago". A model railroad made its runs to various locations over land and water. Visitors felt like they had a front row seat on the train. Free pamphlets were provided at almost every turn.  Sherry Gormanous, Master Gardener



“Get A Buzz Out of Gardening”

2005 Master Gardener State Conference

**Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville
September 22, 23, and 24**

There is always a “buzz” among Master Gardeners– new plants, new tools, new projects to start. Come to Collinsville and learn about the latest “buzz” in gardening. Southern Illinois Master Gardeners will provide wonderful speakers, exciting tours and plenty of time to meet new gardening buddies.

Internationally Prominent Plantsman to be Featured Keynote Speaker

Tony Avent, owner of Plant Delights Nursery and Juniper Level Botanical Gardens (with over 17,000 different plants arranged in an aesthetic display) will give our keynote presentation. Plant Delights Nursery in Raleigh, NC is an international mail order firm specializing in unusual perennials, hostas and natives. Tony is an international plant explorer, hybridizer of hostas and a freelance garden writer and lecturer . His articles have been featured in Horticulture Magazine, American Nurseryman, and Fine Gardening. In 2003, Tony published “So, You Want to Start a Nursery” , covering a broad range of issues encountered by prospective nursery owners.

Concurrent Sessions and Workshops Offer Wide Variety

Attendees will have a wide variety of programming to choose from, including several hands-on workshops. Workshop topics include: Stepping Stones, Topiaries and Bonsai.

The line-up of classes is highlighted by these excellent speakers:

- Jim Long, owner of Long Creek Herbs, is a well known national speaker and author of the “Down to Earth” Column for the Herb Companion Magazine. Jim will delight us with his talks on Making Bentwood Trellises and Herbal Medicines of the Civil War.
- Mike McGrath, host of “You Bet Your Garden” garden show and long-time editor of Organic Gardening Magazine will provide “Organic Answers to Common Garden Problems”.
- Melinda Myers, host of “The Plant Doctor Show” and “Great Lakes Gardener” from Milwaukee, WI is also the author of six gardening books. Melinda will talk about “Adding Wow to Your Garden”.

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: Tough Trees for IL Landscapes; Rain Gardens; Bark, Berries, Grasses and Beyond-Winter Interest; Irises; Orchids; Managing Ancient and Historic Trees; Rock Gardens; 4-H Judging; Daylilies; Bulbs; and Using Computer Programs in Landscape Design.

Tours to Highlight Southern Illinois Gardens

An exciting selection of Thursday tour options await you.

- **Missouri Botanical Garden** (all day tour)- Widely considered one of the three top botanical gardens in the world, "MoBot" offers 79 acres of splendid horticultural displays including the Climatron(a tropical rainforest conservatory); the 14 acre Japanese Garden; Chinese, German and Victorian gardens and the William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening.
- **Shaw Nature Preserve and Gilberg Perennial Farm** (all day tour)- The Shaw Nature Reserve is a 2,500 acre reserve for natural Ozark landscape and managed plant collections. Your visit will include an open air wagon tour of the Pinetum conifer collection, the tallgrass prairie and wetlands. The Bascom house and adjoining 5-acre Whitmore Wildflower Garden will be included. A short drive away is Gilberg's Perennial farm, a retail Garden Center specializing in perennials, herbs and water plants. Stroll their display gardens for ideas and inspiration.
- **The Butterfly House** (morning tour)- The Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House, located in Fanst Park, features an 8,000 square foot glass conservatory where visitors mingle with the more than 60 species of butterflies surrounded by gardens specifically designed to attract these beautiful creatures.
- **Missouri Botanical Garden** -(afternoon tour)
- **Stephenson House and Drost Park** (morning and afternoon tours)- The Stephenson house, built in 1820, was constructed in the Federal style and is on the Federal register of Historic Places. The Master Gardeners of Madison/St. Clair counties have designed and constructed a garden representative of the period. Also on this tour is the Drost Park Garden done by Master Gardeners. Several gardens of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and grasses as well as two rock gardens are featured. Along a walking path that meanders through the park, you will find a Japanese theme garden, a butterfly garden, a native area with bulb bed, an herb garden and a new ornamental grass plot.
- **Henry White Experimental Farm and Eckert's Farm** (morning and afternoon tours)- The Henry White farm serves as an outdoor lab for research into sustainable agriculture. In addition to research plots, the farm's 94 acres include wetlands, evergreen and deciduous groves, restored prairie and wildlife habitat. A second stop on this tour will be to Eckert's Country Store and Farms featuring a country store, a beautiful garden center and fruit orchards.

County Exhibits

In place of poster exhibits this year, the committee will sponsor a Container Design Challenge. Each county is asked to design a container of their choice. So expand your gardening inspirations and use containers and plants most gardeners would not think of putting together! Containers will be auctioned off at the silent auction. To register your county, please send the name of your county as well as Master Gardeners who helped with the design to- Jan Villhard, 1966 Witte Rd., Collinsville, IL. 62234.



The Popular and Successful Silent Auction will be back in 2005!

Details to follow....

Watch for more conference information & registration forms in the July-August Imagine.

Recognizing Volunteers for "Time-Served"!

Quantity doesn't always mean quality. This may be true in many life situations but not when it comes to Master Gardener volunteers. The time and talent donated by our volunteers is what drives the work we do in our communities with youth, the elderly and homeowners eager for gardening education. The program is lucky to have a number of volunteers who have made the ultimate time sacrifice for the Master Gardener program. These folks usually donate several hundred hours per year and are the "backbone" of their county efforts. Since the state office began tracking hours in 2000, we have had 97 volunteers who have given over 500 hours of service; 17 who have logged over 1000 hours and 6 who have given over 1,500 hours.



It is also important to recognize 6 volunteers who have given over 2,000 hours since the record keeping began, as well as one who has over 4,000 hours. To recognize these volunteers, each one will receive a discount coupon to register for the 2005 (or 2006) state conference. Volunteers with over 2000 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 all of these volunteers!

Jim Kemper	Chicago Botanic Garden	1032 hours	Susan Lyons	Lake County	1426 hours
Nancy Miles	Cook South Suburban Unit	1034 hours	Charlynn Schweingruber	Chicago Botanic Garden	1478 hours
Joanne Manella	Chicago Botanic Garden	1042 hours	Mariellen Griffith	McLean County	1502 hours
Sam Goldman	Chicago Botanic Garden	1049 hours	Carol McClure	Champaign County	1520 hours
Kathleen King	Lake County	1075 hours	Hope Forcier	Lake County	1601 hours
Caroline Gherardini	Sangamon/Menard Unit	1077 hours	Linda Smith	McLean County	1608 hours
Dorothy Ksiazkiewicz	Vermilion County	1148 hours	Patti Kirkpatrick	Will County	1622 hours
Howard Bresler	Chicago Botanic Garden	1151 hours	Doug Wood	Cook County	1823 hours
Sam Darin	Chicago Botanic Garden	1153 hours	Linda Kopaz	Kendall County	2100 hours
Elaine Juhl	Chicago Botanic Garden	1221 hours	Alvin Hanzlik	Kendall County	2102 hours
Judy Sager	Crawford County	1223 hours	Wayne Allen	Knox County	2126 hours
Barbara Savitt	Chicago Botanic Garden	1238 hours	Adrienna Lutter	Kendall County	2143 hours
Marvin Ganek	Chicago Botanic Garden	1238 hours	Diana Husband	Cook South Suburban Unit	2163 hours
Ron Maida	Kendall County	1256 hours	Janice Cook	Chicago Botanic Garden	2926 hours
Nancy Reise	Chicago Botanic Garden	1355 hours	Joe Temple	Lasalle County	4910 hours

Soybean Rust and Sudden Oak Death-Important Updates

Have these diseases been discovered in Illinois yet? The answer is an emphatic **NO!** However it is possible that these diseases could make their way to Illinois and therefore you should be informed as to the protocol for handling suspect samples.

Soybean rust is a fungal disease that can cause defoliation and significant yield reductions. Concerns about this disease had been building for several years, but reached high levels when it was first found in the continental U.S. (Louisiana) in 2004. The soybean rust reported in Louisiana was Asian soybean rust, the aggressive species of rust (*Phakopsora pachyrhizi*), rather than the relatively mild American soybean rust (*P. meibomia*). Soybean rust has **NOT** yet been detected in Illinois. Some think this disease may arrive in Illinois in 2005 and cause crop loss, but others think it may not reach significant levels until 2006 or later. For more information about this disease, visit the Illinois Soybean Rust website at <http://soyrust.cropsci.uiuc.edu>

Sudden Oak Death or Ramorum blight has been in the news since its spread to 22 states in 2004. The pathogen was originally seen in Mill Valley California in 1995 where it was found to kill oaks and tanoaks. The disease results in two types of symptoms: 1. bark cankers that kill the host and 2. foliar blights which serve as reservoirs for the pathogen. As of January 2005, 31 plant species have been proven hosts and another 37 have been associated with the disease. Some of these species can be grown in Illinois and include Japanese pieris, Douglas fir, rhododendrons, witch-hazels, viburnums, beeches and lilacs.

In response to the threat of this disease, a task force was created in Illinois to organize and inform the primary stakeholders and to develop an Illinois detection and response plan. A training for Green Industry professionals and Master Gardeners was held on March 7, 2005. The training powerpoint and the Illinois Detection and Response plan can be downloaded from the Master Gardener website at <http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/>. Further Sudden Oak Death /*P. ramorum* information can be found at the North Central IPM website at <http://www.ncipm.org> or the USDA APHIS website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorom>.

Protocol for Sample Submission

Soybean Rust: If you receive a suspect sample for soybean rust you should submit the sample for diagnosis via the DDDI system (Distance Diagnostics through Digital Imaging) or submit a sample directly to the University of Illinois Plant Clinic.

Sudden Oak Death/*P. ramorum*: If you receive a suspect sample for Sudden Oak Death, please send an image via the DDDI system using the Sudden Oak Death protocol. State specialists will screen the submission and then contact you if a sample should be sent to the Plant Clinic for testing.

Information on how to submit these samples to the plant clinic is on the website at <http://plantclinic.cropsci.uiuc.edu/> Please remember that it is of utmost importance that samples are sent rapidly and that the plant clinic is notified that a sample is coming.

Important points to remember about handling suspect Soybean Rust and Sod in your Extension offices:

- Soybean Rust and Sudden Oak Death/*P. ramorum* have **NOT** yet been identified in Illinois.
- Suspect samples should be submitted through the DDDI system and by sending samples to the U of I Plant Clinic.
- All samples need to be submitted promptly and the plant clinic should be notified that they are in transit.
- PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU CANNOT POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THESE DISEASES IN YOUR OFFICE!! Preliminary diagnosis will be done at the plant clinic and then confirmation must be done at the National Labs in Beltsville Maryland.
- Do not alarm clients by suggesting that their plants have these diseases. Observe strict confidentiality.
- If a positive sample is found in Illinois you will NOT be notified by the plant clinic. Announcement of a positive find will be made by the USDA-APHIS-PPQ State Plant Health Director- Steve Knight or the IDA State Plant Regulatory Official Mark Cinnamon. These agencies will inform the client and be responsible for response and management procedures. The Plant Clinic or County Extension offices will not be permitted to release this information.

Oak Tatters Update

A survey of white oak trees to determine the prevalence of oak tatters in Illinois has been ongoing by University of Illinois researchers with help from



Master Gardeners. Jayesh Samtami, graduate research assistant and professors John Masiunas and Jim Appleby have been looking for the cause of this phenomenon. The disease presents with malformed spring

leaves and death of interveinal leaf tissue, leaving a “tattered” appearance on young white oak leaves. Red oak does not appear to be affected by tatters. Leaf tatters has been reported in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. Winter injury, frost, insect attack and herbicide drift were all thought to be possible causes of leaf tatters.

In an experiment conducted in 2004 in Champaign, two-year-old potted white oak seedlings were treated with six herbicide treatments at three concentrations. Herbicides included a 2,4-D ester; glyphosate (Roundup Weathermax); a 2,4-D ester plus glyphosate; dicamba; acetochlor plus atrazine and metolachlor. Trees were sprayed at swollen bud stage, just as leaves were unfolding and to expanded leaves.

Leaf tatters symptoms were seen on seedlings sprayed with the chloroacetamide herbicides (acetochlor plus atrazine and metolachlor) during the leaf unfolding stage. Leaf tatters did not occur on white oaks treated with chloroacetamide herbicides at the other two growth stages or on white oaks treated with other herbicides at all three growth stages. The study indicates that the drift of chloroacetamide herbicides is a possible cause of the leaf tatters syndrome on white oak. This preliminary study was published in *Plant Health Progress*, February 21, 2005. For further information, you may access the article at <http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org>

Important Dates

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.

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

Home Yard and Garden Pest Newsletter

The Home Yard and Garden Newsletter is issued weekly during the growing season (biweekly in the early spring and late summer) with two fall issues. It provides timely information on insect pests, plant diseases, and weeds for landscapers, arborists, lawn care professionals, golf course personnel, garden center operators, and other professional horticulturists. Current control procedures, safe pesticide use, educational opportunities, and other topics of interest are discussed. This newsletter is an excellent resource for personnel use and when answering client questions in the Master Gardener office. For many decades, a fee was charged for a subscription sent through the mail. It has only been in recent years, when the newsletter was posted on the web, that these internet subscriptions were free of charge. The University has now been forced to begin charging for subscriptions starting with the April 2005 issues. A print subscription will be \$46 and to receive the newsletter via the web will cost \$20. University of Illinois Extension offices will pay \$10 for a web subscription. Fees pay for editing and designing, as well as posting the online version and printing and mailing the paper subscriptions. Subscribe online at <http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/cespubs/hyg/>

ITCS Releases New CD-ROM on Floral Design-Plant Material

This great new resource is a PowerPoint CD-ROM that is composed of several sections.

Flower & Foliage Profiles details cut flowers or foliages, with photographs, pronunciations, & information on colors, availability, vase life, care/handling, & design tips.

Dried Materials illustrates different plant materials that dry well and are useful in designs; also shows designs constructed entirely with dried plant materials.

Quizzes and Interactive Quizzes

Handling Techniques gives detailed instructions on the 5 major ways cut flowers and foliages are stored.

The CD sells for \$60. For more information or to view a sample page visit the website at www.aces.uiuc.edu/

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