Coordinators’ Comments

In 2000, a national survey of state and local Master Gardener programs was undertaken by the USDA– Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES). Results of that study were recently released. Forty two states responded to out of 48 states with active Master Gardener programs. The document is too long to summarize here but you may be interested in a couple of highlights:

- In 1999, 17,269 volunteers were trained with state numbers ranging from 50 to 2,000
- Cost of training or enrollment in the program varied from zero to $285 (keep in mind this was the year 2000!)
- 42% of the programs had waiting lists and 74% of applicants went thru a screening process
- 53% of trainees received over 40 hours of training; 40% received 31-40 hours of training. In most states volunteer service requirements corresponded to hours trained.
- Top projects were: staffing booths or displays at community gatherings–30%; advice by phone 27%; Plant-A-Row (or similar projects)-12%; diagnostic clinics-8%; community gardens–7%; speakers bureau–7% & work with youth-4%.
- County Extension staff performed 85% of administration, 91% of training, 69% of program design and 80% of volunteer supervision.
- Major challenges were: lack of resources to manage programs; lack of advanced training; need for improvement in recruitment & retention; overload of local capacity; low volunteer commitment
- It is predicted that in any 5 year period, >100,000 volunteer are brought into the system and over 10 million people are served through their outreach!

If you wish to view the entire document, it can be found on the website at www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/-on the Resources page.

Hope to see many of you at state conference in Collinsville! Monica David

Recognizing More Volunteers for “Time-Served”!

In the last issue of Imagine, I recognized a number of volunteers for their extraordinary donation of time to the Master Gardener program. That list was incomplete and we need to recognize three additional volunteers for contributing greater than 1,000 volunteer hours in their Master Gardener careers (since 2000). Please join me in congratulating these volunteers.

Jim Simon Champaign County 1082 hrs
Anita Portugal Chicago Botanic Garden 1138 hrs
Julie Hughes Vermilion County 1601 hrs

New Container Design Challenge

The 2005 conference steering committee is pleased to announce the NEW Container Design Challenge. This event will replace the poster displays of past conferences. The committee is asking each county to design a container…so use your imagination and dream up some crazy containers with unusual plants. You can also add some information or unique touches that strut your county accomplishments. Let your imagination run wild but don’t be left out of the fun. All we ask is that the container be small enough to be comfortably transported by car!!

The containers will be on display throughout the conference and then will be auctioned off at the Silent auction on Friday night. If your county wishes to design a container, please contact Master Gardener Jan Villhard, 1966 Witte Rd., Collinsville, IL. 62234., 618-345-5765.
Chairperson’s Chat
“Garden Geeks Unite”

Remember when your mom told you to share your toys? Master Gardeners must have been really paying attention that day. Sharing is one of the things that Master Gardeners do best. The Master Gardener State Conference is coming up September 22-24 in Collinsville. It is a great opportunity to share experience and expertise with your fellow garden geeks. It’s time to share garden pictures, hotline horror stories, how to be a better gardener, tips for successful programs and of course the latest hints on how to control Japanese beetles.

You should join your fellow Master Gardeners at the State Conference because Master Gardeners…….

...don’t look at you funny when you bring out the picture portfolio of your garden.
...are actually interested in your intimate knowledge of manure.
...really believe the world needs one more petunia cultivar.
...know the heartbreak of discovering a vole has eaten a favorite hosta.
...are really excited to go to programs called “Show me the Roots” or “Add Wow to your Garden”.
...know that a trowel is not called a baby shovel.
...have several uses for stale beer and none include pretzels.
...are always willing to learn more about gardening.
...believe every seedling should live even though they really don’t need 48 tomato plants.
...wish they had time to visit all 79 acres of the Missouri Botanical Garden.
...see a dead plant in their garden as sad, but quickly turn the experience into a shopping opportunity.
...add rocks to make a rock garden when half the world is removing them
...laugh a lot, even at themselves.
...love good food, good fun and good friends.

Master Gardener State Conference is your time to kick back, have fun, learn more about gardening, get some ideas for your county Master Gardener program and pat yourselves on the back. I hope you will join us September 22-24 in Collinsville. Your fellow Master Gardeners have spent many hours planning your conference. Share in the fun and learn why you get a “buzz out of gardening”. Just don’t ask me to share my new stainless steel spade.

Sandy Mason, Advisory Committee Chairperson

ISA Releases Interactive Pruning CD

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) has recently released the "Introduction to Arboriculture: Pruning", the third CD in its interactive training series. Individuals may use this CD to learn pruning in a new exciting way. Lessons include topics such as pruning objectives, how much and when to prune, specialty pruning, and proper cuts. The CD uses interactive exercises to teach proper techniques.

The "Introduction to Arboriculture" series will include a total of 10 CDs once complete. The self-paced, highly interactive series of CDs is being designed to supplement the "Arborists' Certification Study Guide".

The training series was designed with adult and non-traditional learners in mind. Adult learners who cannot attend formal classes can utilize this self-paced instruction to help further their arboricultural education.

The "Introduction to Arboriculture: Pruning" CD and the other CDs in the series are available through the ISA for $69.95 each ($59.95 for ISA members). "Introduction to Arboriculture: Tree Biology" is currently available in English and Spanish.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), headquartered in Champaign, Ill., is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research and education around the world. As part of ISA's dedication to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry. For more information on ISA and its educational resources, contact Sharon Lilly, or Lisa Butler at 217-355-9411, or visit the Web site at www-isa-arbor.com.
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.

Don’t Miss these Highlights...

◆ 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 titled: “I like It, I Love It, I Want Some More of It. Confessions of a Perennials Addict”. 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.

◆ The New Container Design Challenge! In place of poster exhibits this year, we are asking each county to design a container. Use your imagination & combine unique plants and containers for an exciting display. The containers will be on display each day & will be sold at the Silent Auction.

◆ Books by four of our speakers (Mike McGrath, Melinda Myers, Jim Long and Guy Sternberg) will be for sale. Purchase one and have the author personally autograph it at the conference.

◆ Our conference sponsor, Garden Design Magazine (World Publications) has made it possible for every attendee to receive a 1 year subscription to this magazine as part of registration fees.

◆ Many different tour options are available. Select an all day trip and visit the Missouri Botanical Garden or visit the Shaw Nature Reserve followed by a trip to the ever popular Gilberg's Perennial Farm. Half day tours (morning or afternoon) feature the Spohia Sachs Butterfly House; the Master Gardener gardens at the historic Stephenson House and the display gardens at Drost Park; or Eckerts farm— the largest Pick Your Own Orchard in the USA and The Henry White Experimental Farm.

◆ The popular Silent Auction held last year 2004 is back for 2005! We are gathering a variety of items from across the state and the auction will be held during the dinner hour on Friday evening. So bring checkbooks, billfolds, folding money, cash, etc. and be prepared to join the fun. The proceeds from the silent auction will go towards the operating expenses associated with the state coordinator's office. These include: Imagine newsletter printing and mailing; MG awards; Web site and Web course revisions; trainings and workshops. We hope you will come early, bid often, and help make the second annual MG silent auction a success!
Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Registration at the Gateway Center

TOURS
See tour descriptions on page 7. All tour buses leave from the Gateway Center parking lot.

ALL DAY TOURS
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Tour 1: Missouri Botanical Garden
Cost of tour- $14  Lunch on your own at Gardenview Restaurant.
(Limit 53)
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Tour 2: Shaw Nature Reserve and Gilberg Perennial Farm
Tour includes box lunch- cost $12 (Limit 53)

MORNING TOURS (Lunch on your own for all half day tours)
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tour 3: “The Butterfly House”  (Limit 53)
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Tour 4: The Stephenson House and Drost Park (Limit 53)
8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Tour 5: Eckert’s Farm & Henry White Experimental Farm (Limit 53)

AFTERNOON TOURS
1:30–4:30 p.m. Tour 6: Missouri Botanical Garden (Limit 53)
1:00-4:00 p.m. Tour 7: The Stephenson House and Drost Park (Limit 53)
1:00-4:30 p.m. Tour 8: Eckert’s Farm & Henry White Experimental Farm (Limit 53)

5:30-6:30 p.m. Happy Hour
6:30-9:30 p.m. Awards Banquet for Master Gardeners

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23  Classes will be held at the Gateway Center & the adjoining Holiday Inn

8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Registration and Information Desk Open

8:30-10:00 a.m. Keynote Address: “I like It, I Love It, I Want Some More of It. Confessions of a Perennials Addict”  - Tony Avent

10:00-10:30 am. Break

10:30 a.m.-Noon Concurrent Classes
1. Rock Gardens- June Hutson
2. A Tropical Cottage Garden- Chris Kelley
3. Stained Glass Stepping Stones- Richard & Leanna Collins
   Fee $20 (limit 24)
4. Herbal Vinegars & Salts That Don’t Just Sit on the Counter- Mary Buckles
5. Irises in Your Landscape- Ernie & Ann Henson
6. Show Me the Roots- Chris Starbuck
7. Growing and Enjoying Small Fruits- Ed Billingsley
Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch & Door Prize Drawing

1:30-3:00 p.m. Concurrent Classes
1. Rain Gardens- Cindy Gilberg
2. Captivating Conifers for the Landscape- Rich Eyre
3. Pathogen and Pest News- Nancy Pataky & Phil Nixon
4. Sizzlin Containers- Tropical Style- Chris Kelley
5. Making Bentwood Trellises- Jim Long
6. Irises in Your Landscape- Ernie & Ann Henson
7. Show Me the Roots- Chris Starbuck

3:00-3:30 p.m. Break

3:30-5:00 p.m. Concurrent Classes
1. Perennials- Cindy Gilberg
2. Tough Native Trees for Illinois Landscapes- Guy Sternberg
3. Bark, Berries, Grasses and Beyond- Adding Interest to the Off-Season Garden- Jeff Epping
4. Stained Glass Stepping Stones- Richard & Leanna Collins
   Fee $20 (limit 24)
5. Organic Answers to All Your Gardening Questions- Mike McGrath
6. Vegetable Gardening- Ed Billingsley
7. Horticulture Gardening Institute Opportunities- Kate Kolvedt

5:30-6:30 p.m. Happy Hour
6:30 p.m.—? Dinner & Silent Auction

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24 Classes will be held at the Gateway Center & the adjoining Holiday Inn

8:00 a.m.-Noon Registration & Information Desk Open

8:30-10:00 a.m. Concurrent Classes
1. Managing Ancient and Historic Trees- Guy Sternberg
2. Judging Horticulture Specimens- Jim Schmidt & David Robson
   (3 hours- register for both time slots)
3. The Best of the Ornamental Grasses- Jeff Epping
4. Banded Topiary Workshop- Guyla Pilger
   Fee $15 (limit 15)
5. Organic Answers to All Your Gardening Questions- Mike McGrath
6. The Digital Landscape Design Experience- Tim Smith
7. Horticulture Gardening Institute Opportunities- Kate Kolvedt

10:00-10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m.-Noon Concurrent Classes
1. All About Orchids- Carol Gravens
2. Judging Horticulture Specimens- Jim Schmidt and David Robson
   (3 hours- register for both time slots)
10:30 a.m.-Noon  
**Concurrent Classes (continued)**  
4. *Bonsai Workshop*– Brian & Milt Ciskowski, Jack Baccus  
   Fee $35  (limit 20)  
5. *The Digital Landscape Design Experience*– Tim Smith  
6. *Spring Flowering Bulbs*– Jason Delaney  
7. *Add Wow to Your Garden*– Melinda Myers  

Noon-1:30 p.m.  
**Lunch & Door Prize Drawing**  

1:30-3:00 p.m.  
**Concurrent Classes**  
1. *Bonsai Workshop*– Brian & Milt Ciskowski, Jack Baccus  
   Fee $35  (limit 20)  
2. *Beekeeping*– Ken Klopper  
3. *Banded Topiary Workshop*– Guyla Pilger  
   Fee $15  (limit 15)  
4. *Daylilies*– Jason Delaney  
5. *Orchids Their Lure and Legend*– Carol Gravens  
6. *Add Wow to Your Garden*– Melinda Myers  
7. *Native Prairie Plant Project*– Bill Powers & Washington County MGs  

**Accommodations**  
Registrants are responsible for their own hotel reservations. The designated conference hotels are:  
1. Holiday Inn Collinsville (618-345-2800) and 2. Drury Inn Collinsville (618-345-7700). A block of rooms has been reserved at both hotels at a special conference rate of $89.99 (single, double, triple or quad). Both hotels serve free continental breakfast. The Holiday Inn is adjacent to the conference center and the Drury Inn is about 1 mile away. A shuttle bus will be provided from the Gateway Center to the Drury Inn during the conference. Reserve your room by **August 21 (Drury)** or **August 31 (Holiday Inn)** to assure availability at the conference rate. Indicate that you are with the IL Master Gardener conference. Check-in time is 3 pm and check-out time is Noon at both hotels.  

**Registration**  
Conference enrollment is open to Master Gardeners & one adult guest. Each attendee must complete their own registration form. **Registration deadline is August 25, 2005.** The registration fee of $195 includes all classes, handouts, bus transportation on tours, as well as two lunches and two dinners. Some workshop and all day tour fees are additional. Single day registrations are available for $90 per day and include all classes & meals scheduled for that day. A late fee of $25 will be assessed for registrations received August 26 through September 7. No registrations will be accepted after September 7. If they so desire, award winners may register only for the Thursday awards banquet and bring adult guests ($25 each).  

*Cancellation Policy:* Cancellations will be accepted until September 7 for a full refund. After that date, no refunds will be given (conference handouts will be mailed if requested) but participant substitutions will be accepted until September 22.  

Please register using the attached form. Indicate your first, second and third choice of classes as well as the meals and tours you will attend. While every attempt will be made to accommodate first preferences, space in some classes is limited. Register early to assure a spot in your favorite classes, first come-first served. Conference schedules and maps to the Gateway Center will be sent in early September.
Meals
The registration fee includes the Thursday awards banquet and Friday dinner as well as lunches on Friday and Saturday. Both conference hotels serve free continental breakfast. Vegetarian meals will be available (please indicate this preference on the registration). For the Thursday evening awards banquet there is a choice of 2 entrees. Please select either Chilean sea bass or beef medallions.

Tours
The Missouri Botanical Garden Tour– The garden has 79 acres of horticultural displays and includes the vibrant tropical rainforest that thrives inside the Climatron Conservatory. The Japanese Garden covers 14 acres, making it a popular strolling garden. Other displays include Chinese, English, German and Victorian gardens. The William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening, the nation's most comprehensive resource center for gardening information, includes 23 residential-scale demonstration gardens. The all-day tour includes guided tours of the Japanese Garden and the Kemper Center.

Shaw Nature Reserve– The Nature reserve is a 2,400 acre reserve with the mission of educating visitors of all ages about the plants, animals and ecosystems of the region. This visit will include an open-air wagon (with canopy roof) tour on a 3 mile gravel road as a naturalist/guide describes the Reserve's history, what is in bloom, the Pinetum conifer collection, the tallgrass prairie, wildlife and wetlands. Following the wagon trip, you may tour the Bascom House, a restored 1879 home which houses “The People on the Land” exhibit and explore the adjoining 5-acre Whitmore Wildflower Garden.

Gilberg Perennial Farm– For the last 25 years, Gilberg’s Perennial Farm has been a gardener’s retreat and resource, now offering the Midwest’s greatest herbaceous plant selection in an atmosphere of learning & perennial excitement. You may walk through their display gardens for ideas and inspiration. Gilberg’s is a leader in water gardening, stocking everything you need to create a water garden, even the fish. Plants are offered for sale with plant profiles for every plant detailing characteristics, care and suggested uses.

The Butterfly House– The Sophia M Sachs Butterfly House & Education Center became a division of the Missouri Botanical garden in 2001. The central feature is an 8,000 square foot glass conservatory where visitors mingle with more than 60 species of beautiful butterflies in free flight. The glass conservatory is surrounded by gardens specifically planned to attract butterflies. A lovely gift shop is also available.

The Stephenson House– This outstanding federal-style home built in 1820 by Colonel Stephenson is on the National Register of Historic Places. The gardens around the house have been designed and planted by Master Gardeners from the Madison unit and replicate what would have been planted in the early 1800s.

Drost Park– Master Gardeners have carved several gardens of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and grasses within this lovely park. Two rock gardens as well as a Japanese theme garden, a butterfly garden, a native and natural area with spring bulb bed and a new ornamental grass plot are highlights of this tour.

Eckert’s Farm– Family owned & operated since 1837, this is the largest You-Pick orchard operation in the country. The Farm features a garden center, & country store as well as the huge apple orchard operation.

The Henry White Experimental Farm– The Farm is a setting for educational experiments designed to improve practices that are productive, environmentally prudent and sustainable. Six acres of grain crop rotation, three wetlands and a 4 acre prairie are on site. Demonstration gardens display new & heirloom vegetables, new floral varieties and garden techniques.
2005 Illinois Master Gardener Conference
September 22-24
Gateway Center, Collinsville, IL.

Name ________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________

City ________________________________ State _____ Zip ______________

Unit/County ________________ Telephone ________________ e-mail _____________

TOURS
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22
All Day Tours:
____ Tour 1: Missouri Botanical Gardens- Fee $14- lunch on your own (limit 53)
____ Tour 2: Shaw Nature Reserve and Gilberg's Perennial Farm- Fee $12 includes lunch (limit 53)

Morning Tours
____ Tour 3: The Butterfly House (limit 53)
____ Tour 4: Stephenson House & Drost Park (limit 53)
____ Tour 5: Eckert’s & Henry White Farm (limit 53)

Afternoon Tours
____ Tour 6: Missouri Botanical Garden (limit 53)
____ Tour 7: Stephenson House & Drost Park (limit 53)
____ Tour 8: Eckert’s & Henry White Farm (limit 53)

CONCURRENT CLASSES- Indicate your first, second and third choice for each time slot. If you are registering for Judging Horticultural Specimens- choose both time slots (3 hrs).

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

10:30 a.m.-Noon
____ Rock Gardens
____ A Tropical Cottage Garden
____ Stepping Stones (limit 24) Fee $20
____ Herbal Vinegars & Salts
____ Irises
____ Show Me the Roots
____ Small Fruits

1:30—3:00 p.m.
____ Rain Gardens
____ Conifers
____ Pathogens & Pests
____ Sizzlin Containers Tropical Style
____ Bentwood Trellises
____ Irises
____ Show Me the Roots

3:30-5:00 p.m.
____ Perennials
____ Tough Native Trees
____ Off-Season Garden
____ Stepping Stones (limit 24) Fee $20
____ Organic Answers
____ Vegetable Gardening
____ Hort Gardening Institute
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24

8:30-10:00 a.m.
___Ancient & Historic Trees
___Judging Hort Specimens (part I)- register for both sessions
___Ornamental Grasses
___Topiary Workshop (limit 15) Fee $15
___Organic Answers
___Digital Landscape Design
___Hort Gardening Institute

10:30 a.m.-Noon
___All About Orchids
___Judging Hort Specimens (Part II) - register for both sessions
___Herbal Medicines of the Civil War
___Bonsai Workshop (limit 20) Fee $35
___Digital Landscape Design
___Spring Flowering Bulbs
___Add Wow to Your Garden

1:30-3:00 p.m.
___Bonsai Workshop (limit 20) Fee $35
___Beekeeping
___Topiary Workshop (limit 15) Fee $15
___Daylilies
___Orchids-Lure & Legend
___Add Wow to Your Garden
___Native Prairie Plant Project

MEALS: (Indicate which meals you will attend)
___Thursday Evening Awards Banquet (Choose one)
   □ Chilean Sea Bass
   □ Beef Medallions
___Friday Lunch
___Friday Dinner
___Saturday Lunch
___I request vegetarian meals.

MEASUREMENTS
___S_____M_____L_____XL_____2XL_____3XL_____ 

Total Enclosed

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 25. Late registrations from August 26-Sept. 7. No registrations accepted after Sept 7. No refunds issued after September 7.
Make checks payable to the "University of Illinois". Credit card payment is not available.
Mail your check and registration to:
Illinois Master Gardener Office, 1201 S. Dorner Drive, Urbana, IL 61801
Questions may be directed to Monica David-217-265-5256 or modavid@uiuc.edu

FEES

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<tr>
<td>Full Registration Fee: $195</td>
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<td>Includes all classes, handouts, tour transportation, 2 dinners, 2 lunches, breaks</td>
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<td>Single Day Registration: $90 (Check one)</td>
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<td>Includes all classes, handouts, breaks, tour transportation and meals scheduled for that day.</td>
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<td>Thursday Award Banquet only @ $25</td>
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<td>□ Missouri Botanical Garden- all day tour $14</td>
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<td>□ Shaw Nature Reserve &amp; Gilbergs- $12</td>
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<td>Additional Workshop Fees (Check appropriate boxes):</td>
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<td>□ Bonsai $35</td>
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<td>Additional Late Fee $25- (August 26-Sept 7)</td>
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<td>Navy T-shirt with lime green conference logo @ $10</td>
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Class Descriptions...

Rock Gardens- Rock Gardens are for plant people. All types of plants can be grown among rocks in sun or shade. Learn about how to create this type of landscape for a Midwestern climate.

A Tropical Cottage Garden- Jazz up your garden with tropical plants. Expect the unusual and a new twist on old favorites.

Stained Glass Stepping Stones- Participants will make a 9" round stained glass stepping stone and take it home. Learn how to properly mix the cement. Several pre-cut flower patterns will be available to choose from.

Herbal Vinegars & Salts That Just don’t Sit on the Counter- This seminar will present the techniques of making herbal vinegars and salts; the preparation of the containers; preparation of the fresh herbs; and recipes and usage of the finished products.

Iris in Your Landscape- A description of the various types of Bearded and Beardless Iris that will fit nicely into your landscape; their culture and uses, along with a slide show. A short history of the genus Iris will be given by Ann Henson. Door prizes will be provided.

Show Me the Roots- A current topic of vigorous discussion among arborists and horticulturists across the US is "stem girdling roots" or SGRs. This term refers to roots that encircle the trunk of the tree, creating constriction that can interfere with the uptake of water & nutrients and cause structural weakness. This session will discuss the prevalence of this problem, possible caused for the condition and methods for reducing the probability of its occurrence.

Growing and Enjoying Small Fruits- Nothing stimulates the pallet anymore than a fresh strawberry or blueberry from one's own garden. Come enjoy this workshop on growing small fruit.

Rain Gardens- Rain Gardens are a perfect solution to collection of excess water run off and for preventing erosion or as a solution to standing water on properties.

Captivating Conifers for the Landscape- Rich Eyre’s in depth lecture will explain what makes these trees better than their forest relatives for modern downsized spaces. His slides feature selection of the appropriate trees based on growth habit and sun requirement. He illustrates how to use garden conifers in small or narrow spaces, foundation plantings and shady places. Rich will inform participants about the best Midwestern conifer sites to visit and give testimony to the Conifer Society and mentoring of its experts.

Pathogen and Pest News- Learn from Nancy Pataky about disease problems that have intensified in 2005. Find out about the progress of Sudden Oak Death, Bacterial Leaf Scorch, Oak Wilt and other tree threats. See what is new in diseases of herbaceous plants. Phil Nixon will give an update of tree, shrub and turf insects- those insects who are new, those we are watching out for and those which are increasing in importance.

Sizzlin Containers-Tropical Style- Tired of planting the same old thing in your containers. Come to this talk and learn ideas for ways to incorporate containers into the landscape.

Making Bentwood Trellises- Use recycled materials from your landscape trimmings! Jim's best-selling book-Making Bentwood Trellises has inspired thousands of people to make a romantic, rustic trellis for their garden using simple materials. The audience will see how a trellis is made, learn what wood to use and learn easy ways to make the garden more beautiful using a trellis.

Perennials- What's New! What's tried and true! Cindy Gilberg will discuss the basics of perennial gardening and combinations of plants for impact in your garden.

Tough Native Trees for Illinois Landscapes- Are you concerned about those "miracle" exotic tress that might escape and become invasive nightmares? Or the tender exotics that grow and bloom for several years, then suddenly fall victim to our unpredictable Illinois weather? Learn about tough native tree species- dependable beauty without guilt or undue risk is what natives are all about!

Bark, Berries, Grasses and Beyond- Adding Interest to the Off-Season Garden- Learn how Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Gardens has used a wide range of plants to add interest to the Herb, Sunken and Perennial gardens. Jeff will discuss vines, shrubs, trees, and evergreens in the Off-Season Garden.

Vegetable Gardening- Learn how to make the task of raising vegetables more enjoyable with a little less hoe, hoe, hoe.
Organic Answers to All Your Gardening Questions—Are dastardly deer dining on your dianthus? Slimy slugs sucking up your salvia? Crabgrass making you crabby? Well, buck up because Public radio’s Mike McGrath is here to reveal highly effective—and completely chemical free—answers to your worst gardening problems: weeds, disease, shade, invasive insects—even ‘impossible problems’ like black spot on roses! Whatever your worst woe, Mike will help you conquer it—in this lively Q & A session.

Horticulture Gardening Institute Opportunities—Join the Horticulture Institute and discover a new way to garden, exchange ideas and learn new skills. It’s easy to get started—rain or shine, winter or spring, day or night—your love of gardening and our programs are never dormant. We offer online programs, face-to-face events, access to national gardening experts, online resources, certificates of completion and MG educational credits.

Managing Ancient and Historic Trees—Great trees that transcend human generations, are the largest known examples of their species, or are associated with historic people or important events & are irreplaceable at any price. Look with us at some magnificent trees and learn their fascinating stories. See what can or can’t be done to preserve & protect special trees, and leave inspired and armed to manage similar trees under your care or in your neighborhood.

Judging Horticulture Specimens—Judging a horticulture exhibit at a county or 4-H fair is more than just picking the prettiest vegetable or flower. This workshop will provide participants with the necessary information to help them separate the blue ribbons from the reds and whites. While this workshop is not a substitute for in-depth judging certification, participants will enjoy a fun, hands-on experience to help them learn what makes a quality vegetable or flower exhibit.

The Best of Ornamental Grasses—No other group of plants have had the impact that the ornamental grasses have had in our gardens in recent years. Jeff Epping, has incorporated a wide palette of ornamental grasses into Olbrich’s Garden designs over the years and he will share his experiences with you on the best performing species and cultivars. Jeff will also show you how he and others have incorporated these beauties into their gardens to create knock-out displays.

Banded Topiary Workshop—Learn how to build and fill a banded topiary frame butterfly with directions for two others—a ladybug and dragonfly.

The Digital Landscape Design Experience—This workshop will introduce the designer to the latest CAD (computer aided drafting) applications as well as the latest photo imaging applications in order to help you in selecting design software to answer your specific design questions.

All About Orchids—Although enveloped in mystery and legend, orchids are not difficult to grow in our homes if we observe a few simple rules of care. This visual program includes the cultural requirements of growing orchids, as well as their structure, growth habits and reproduction.

Herbal Medicines of the Civil War—This is a fascinating look at historical herbal medicines. Jim focuses on the part that folk healers served in the War Between the States. Fun and informative, this presentation includes lots of information about the War and the way people were healed.

Bonsai Workshop—This hands-on workshop will cover the basics of Bonsai—origin, culture, styling and maintenance. MGs will be guided through the art of creating their own bonsai by pruning, wiring & shaping a specimen plant into a graceful work of art.

Spring Flowering Bulbs—Learn about the culture and cultivation of spring bulbs—make a splash in the spring garden by using bulbs!

Add Wow to Your Garden—Join Horticulturist Melinda Myers as she shows us garden design and planning ideas to add zest and sparkle to your landscape.

Beekeeping—An introduction to beekeeping in Illinois and getting started in beekeeping for hobbyists.

Daylilies—Join Jason as he showcases the Missouri Botanical Garden’s collection of daylilies. He will also discuss culture & suggest the best available varieties.

Orchids Their Lure and Legend—Orchids have fascinated us since the time of Confucius more than 2500 years ago. Orchid lore permeates Greek and Roman mythology. This visual program explores the history, magic, structure and beauty of orchids.

Native Prairie Plant Project—Join the Washington Co MGs as they discuss how they planned and implemented their award winning Prairie Plant Project.
Meet Our Conference Speakers...

Eddie Billingsley– Eddie is the Unit Leader for Jackson County and has worked as a county Ag advisor, multi-county advisor, commercial Horticulture educator and now as a unit leader. He also taught vocational agriculture and was a college administrator.

Mary Buckles– Mary is owner and operator of Prairie Home Herbs located near Mt. Pulaski, IL. Both a noted speaker and published writer, Mary travels away from Prairie Home to present culinary, gardening, crafting and business seminars that are related to the herb industry. She is the current past president of the IL Herb Association, served consecutive terms on the ISGA Board of Directors, is a charter member of the Logan Co. Herb Guild and recipient of the IHA Award of Excellence.

Brian and Milt Ciskowski, Jack Bacus– Brian and Milt are the owners of Cass Bonsai Gardens– a Bonsai and Japanese Garden Nursery. Jack Bacus is a well-known Midwest Bonsai instructor and artist.

Leanna and Richard Collins– Master Gardeners from Knox County, Richard and Leanna have 4 acres of flowers and fruit trees. They have set up displays of their artwork at over 30 art shows and festivals in Iowa and IL and are frequent guest speakers for many U of I spring garden seminars.

Jason Delaney– Jason is a Horticulturist at the Missouri Botanical Garden and is responsible for the Heckman and Samuels Bulb Gardens, the Goodman Iris Garden and the Jenkins Daylily Garden.

Jeff Epping– Jeff has been the Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Botanical Gardens since 1994. He oversees the operations and design of over nine specialty gardens. Epping’s award-winning designs include Olbrich’s Sunken Garden and Perennial Garden. He recently implemented his planting design for the new Thai Garden, featuring an authentic handcrafted Thai Pavilion. Jeff served as Propagator and Nursery Manager at CBG. He travels regularly throughout the U.S., U.K. and Thailand to photograph and he is a well-known lecturer on landscape plants and designs.

Rich Eyre– Rich Eyre is a 35 year conifer collector turned nurseryman and he has turned his passion into a thriving business, Rich’s Foxwillow Pines Nursery Inc. Rich is past Vice President of the Central Region of the Conifer Society and served on the national Board of Directors. In 2001, he received their Award of Merit. Rich has been featured on the Victory Garden, & has written articles for Chicago Home and Garden, American Nurseryman, Midwest Living, Fine Gardening magazines as well as in several books.

Cindy Gilberg– In 1979 Cindy and her husband founded Gilberg Perennial Farms that specializes in perennials, herbs & water gardening. Cindy has lectured to many audiences including MBG and St. Louis Community College. She is currently Central Region director for the Perennial Plant Assn.

Carol Gravens– Carol became a St. Louis Master Gardener after retiring from a professional career as a microbiologist. Carol can be found every Thursday volunteering in the orchid greenhouses at MBG, helping to tend about 8500 orchid plants. She also shares her love of orchids by speaking to various garden clubs and community groups, and teaching classes at MBG.

Ernie and Ann Henson– Ernie and Ann are members of the American Iris Society and are fully accredited Iris Garden and Show Judges. They have grown irises for 38 years and maintain a large display garden containing over 2000 cultivars of irises in addition to daylilies, bulbs, peonies and other perennials and woody plants. Ernie is the AIS Region 9 RVP and an member of the IL Master Gardener Advisory Committee.

June Hutson– June has been an employee of the Missouri Botanical Garden for 29 years and she is currently the supervisor of the Kemper Home Demonstration Area. She has been in charge of the Rock Garden/Dwarf Conifers Garden for twenty years.

Chris Kelley– Chris is an excellent plantswoman and frequent speaker. She is owner of Cottage Garden’s Nursery which has an extensive selection of tropicaals and other unique perennials.

Ken Klopepper– Ken is the Vice president of the St. Clair Beekeepers Assn. He will be joined for his presentation by four members of the group who are amateur beekeepers and who also belong to the Illinois State Beekeepers Assn. The group strives to promote good beekeeping practices and educate others about bees.
Kate Koltvedt- Kate is MSU Global’s Senior Project Administrator. Kate applies expertise to the MSU Global Horticulture Gardening Institute as well as the World Bank Initiative. Kate represents the Horticulture Gardening Institute at national/state wide events by presenting information on the Gardening Institute’s online programs. Prior to joining MSU Global Online Connection, Kate spent four years with MSU’s Outreach Advancement unit where she helped to create both the Spartan Youth and Statewide Resource Network websites.

Jim Long- Jim is an herbalist, author and professional gardener. He has appeared on numerous regional & national TV programs, including “Home Matters with Susan Powell”, “Way to Grow” filmed with the Disney Institute and with “P. Allen Smith Gardens” on HGTV. Jim is co-owner of Long Creek Herb Farm which has been featured in numerous gardening magazines. He has been a columnist for The Herb Companion magazine for 14 years and he has a syndicated column “Ozarks Gardening” which appears in numerous newspapers. Jim has also written 22 books and is a popular lecturer.

Mike McGrath- Host of the nationally syndicated Public Radio Show, “You Bet Your Garden”, Mike was also Editor-In-Chief of Organic Gardening magazine from 1991 thru 1997. He received the "Quill & Trowel" award from the Garden Writers of America for his Openings editorial columns in 1992. Mike appeared monthly as the gardening expert on the weekend edition of “The Today Show”, Saturday mornings on NBC. His most recent books are Kitchen Garden A to Z and You Bet Your Tomatoes.

Melinda Myers- Melinda, is the author of 7 books including the Birds and Blooms Ultimate Garden Guide and The Garden Book for Wisconsin. She hosts “Great Lakes Gardener” seen on PBS throughout the Midwest, and the “Plant Doctor” show on WTMJ radio in Milwaukee, and is a contributing editor & columnist for Birds and Blooms magazine. Melinda has received the 2003 Garden Globe Award for radio talent and the 1998 “Quill & Trowel” award from the Garden Writers Assn.

Phil Nixon- Phil has degrees from SIU and Kansas State. Dr. Nixon is a member of the U of I Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program with expertise in tree, shrub, turf and household insect pests. Phil is the editor of the Home, Yard and Garden Pest newsletter. He is co-author of IPM for Gardeners, from Timber Press.

Nancy Pataky- Nancy began working as director of the U of I plant clinic in 1976. She is one of the major authors for the Home Yard and Garden Pest newsletter. She is co-author of a book with Ray Cloyd and Phil Nixon, IPM for Gardeners, from Timber Press.

Guyla Pilger- Guyla is a self-proclaimed “renegade florist and “do-it-yourself dumpster diva”. She has been a Master Gardener since 1997, manager of 4-Es country gardens for 4 years and evergreens for 6 years. She is the talent behind the lovely topiary decorations from the 2004 Master Gardener conference.

David Robson- David is a Horticulture Educator with the University of IL Extension, based in Springfield, for the last 25 years. He is also a Master Judge with the National Garden Clubs.

Jim Schmidt- Jim is an Extension Specialist, Horticulture, with the Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences with 28 years experience. He is a nationally recognized Horticulture Judging Instructor for the National Garden Clubs.

Tim Smith- Tim is the President of Evergreen Solutions with over sixteen years experience in the Green Industry. By understanding and applying technology specific to the industry, Evergreen Solutions is able to provide easy to understand, practical applications and training.

Chris Starbuck- Chris is an associate professor of Horticulture and State Extension Specialist for Woody Ornamentals at the University of Missouri. He is involved in teaching and research as well as conducting Extension programming geared toward the nursery/landscape industry in Missouri. His research interests include improved handling techniques for bare root nursery stock and effective use of mulch and soil amendments.

Guy Sternberg- Guy served on the staff of the Dept. of Natural Resources for 32 years; is a past president of the IL Native Plant Society and first President of the International Oak Society. He has numerous magazine and journal articles to his credit and is the author of Landscaping with Native Trees and Native Trees for North American Landscapes. Guy and his wife Edie grow and study hundreds of oak taxa at Starhill Forest, their research arboretum. He works with the National Famous and Historic Trees Program and the Champion Trees Project to promote awareness of special and historic trees.
Silent Auction
At
2005 State Master Gardener Conference

Donations needed: Unique items such as original art pieces, outdoor garden sculpture, garden gifts, experimental or new plant varieties, garden tools (Donor will be recognized in print)

Proceeds benefit: Operating expenses for State Master Gardener Office (i.e., printing and mailing Imagine, maintaining membership database, Master Gardener awards, conference expenses, workshops)

Contact: Joyce Wilhelm, Master Gardener
618-235-6152, n9stl@icss.net or
2845 Mulligan Lane, Belleville, IL  62220,
by Monday, August 1

Committee Members: Chris Medon, 618-580-1604; Colleen Seiffert, 618-345-2708; Donna Oaster, 618-344-7130; Jeanne Edgar, 618-236-0661; Judy Wiemann, 618-288-9232; Kim Bonacorsi, 618-659-0092; Wendy Wilbraham, 618-656-6716
Spotlight on McLean Master Gardeners

Our first class graduated in 1998 with 14 members. We now have 82 active members and interns who have volunteered over 22,000 hours to McLean County Extension. The initial members immediately began to execute our motto "Helping Others Learn to Grow" by initiating education programs.

Classes were begun for Heartland Community College's continuing education division. Two to four classes have been offered per semester, and the program continues today with Master Gardeners teaching in a classroom provided by Extension and Heartland managing the registration and evaluation process. The registration fees are split equally between the two organizations.

Bylaws were written for the Association and a board was formed including a president, president-elect, past president, secretary and treasurer. The board also includes the following elected committee chairpersons charged with specific duties. The finance committee chair prepares a budget based on total committee needs. The Inservice committee chair manages our education trips while the Member Relations committee chair prepares a monthly newsletter for the members. The Nominations and Awards committee chair prepares the slate of officers and board members for the annual election and develops the recognition ceremony at our annual meeting. The Office and Records committee chair manages hotline volunteers and the library. The Public Relations committee chair publicizes our activities, and the Recruitment and Training committee interviews and mentors MG trainees. The Outreach committee chair handles requests for speakers for community organization events and public education programs. The Junior Master Gardener committee is responsible for planning the Junior Master Gardener curriculum and for teaching the classes. Each committee chairperson has a number of volunteers to assist with his or her duties.

Our board meets monthly. The entire membership meets quarterly with an education program, business meeting and a potluck. Bi-monthly meetings were recently established to visit sites of interest to the membership.

Some McLean County ongoing programs include: monthly classes at the Bloomington Public Library, a question and answer booth at the weekly Bloomington Farmer's Market held during the summer months, a question and answer booth at the County Fair, radio programs on our local radio station and weekly columns for community newspapers. Our Home, Lawn and Garden Day (a one-day event for the public) has grown from 50 attendees three years ago to 150 this past year.

McLean County Master Gardeners believe in working with all age levels and community groups. For example, this past fall we taught a six-week course for Senior Professionals sponsored by Illinois State University. We helped a new day care center select plants for a sensory garden for 2 and 3 year olds. This summer we are collaborating with the Normal Parks and Recreation Department to teach an eight-week course for children in grades three through five.

Although education is our major emphasis, our members would agree that the friendships developed though our many volunteer projects is priceless. We are thrilled to belong to such a wonderful organization.

Charlotte Talkington and Linda Smith
McLean County Master Gardeners

Important Dates

July 9: Summer Blooms Garden Walk, sponsored by the McHenry County Master Gardeners and McHenry County College. Self-tour a collection of seven gardens in McHenry and Crystal Lake, IL. from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The day will include demonstrations at the various gardens, door prizes and a plant sale. Tickets can be purchased in advance for $10 or at the McHenry County College demo garden for $12. For more information call 815-459-1222.

July 30 & 31: A Walk in the Garden, Savanna, IL. Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 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 August 15, 2005.
Cultivating the Written Word: Creative Garden Writing from Production to Publication

The School of the Chicago Botanic Garden is pleased to announce a four-day professional writing workshop (August 9-12) for anyone wishing to cultivate their writing skills. The emphasis will be on the skills needed to write about the gardening world, from fine-tuning the short article or essay, to targeting audiences and publishers. This is an excellent forum for exploring the world of Garden Publishing. The instructors are C. Colston Burrell and Lucy Hardiman, both being celebrated, professional authors. The workshop is sponsored in part by Fine Gardening magazine. Log onto http://www.chicagobotanic.org/continuinged/specialprograms.html for more details, or call 847-835-8261.

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