



Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,
News and Education

Vol. 7 No. 2
March-April 2006

Coordinators Comments

In October 2005, 51 Master Gardeners and Coordinators from East Central Illinois met at Allerton Park in Monticello to share program ideas and encourage volunteer collaboration. Participants from large as well as small programs realized that they share common goals as well as common challenges. The number one problem experienced by most counties seemed to be how to retain volunteers. Program strategies for community gardens/display gardens; garden walks; kids programs; and answering client questions were discussed. It was a great opportunity to meet and learn from each other.

On April 4th, the West Central Region will also host a leadership meeting. The conference will be held at the U of I Extension Building on the Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield-from 9 am to 3:30 pm. Master Gardeners and Coordinators from the WC region are highly encouraged to attend but any Illinois Master Gardener will benefit from the conference. Contact Jennifer Fishburn- fishburn@uiuc.edu (217-782-4617) or Paula Robinson-probinso@uiuc.edu (217-854-9604) with questions. Check with your local unit leader to determine if local funds are available for you to attend.

2006 State Conference to Feature Outstanding Garden Tours

An all day tour to the Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Gardens will feature 52 acres of gardens including a Formal Rose Garden with Bausman Old Garden Roses; an English Knot Garden; a formal English Garden; an Herb Garden, a Hosta Garden, a Japanese Garden and Mr. McGregor's Childrens garden. This is the only arboretum and botanical garden in the USA staffed entirely by volunteers. The 375 volunteers or "Green Team" as they call themselves have done a spectacular job with planting and maintenance. They also manage the All American Test Gardens and have received 12 consecutive awards for their rose gardens.

Four local half-day trips will also be offered and it will be hard to choose between them! The first tour will feature stops at the Quad City Botanical Center and the Mississippi River Visitor Center at Lock and Dam 15. The Tropical Sun garden at the Botanical Center features a 14-foot waterfall and island gardens with lush tropicals, birds and fish. Outdoor gardens are infused with colorful perennials, ornamental grasses and much more. The other morning tour stops at the Botanical Center and at the premier winning rain gardens in Rock Island. Not to be missed will be the rain garden the Master Gardeners have been working on at the request of the Public Health Dept.

Two afternoon tours will stop at the gardens of the Butterworth & Deere Wiman homes. Each hilltop estate features a large variety of unusual plantings. One tour will also include a stop at the Vander Veer Botanical Park-complete with annual and perennial beds, a conservatory, a formal Rose Garden, a Hosta Glade, the Grand Allee with stone fountains and a children's Sculpture Garden. The second afternoon tour will also visit the Blackhawk State Park. At the park, there is a prairie established by school children in the 1980s as well as a demo of fire equipment the Park District uses for prairie burns. This beautiful deciduous forest also has the Hauberg Indian Museum and Civilian Conservation Corps museum on the grounds.

Mark your calendar for Sept 7-9 and join us in Moline for an exciting state conference!



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
April 23-29, 2006

National Volunteer Week, sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation is April 23-29, 2006. This week is about thanking Americas most valuable asset-our volunteers- and calling public attention to all YOU do to improve our communities. National

Volunteer Week began in 1974 when president Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. The 2006 theme is "Inspire by Example" because it truly reflects the power volunteers have to inspire the people that they help. This would be a very good time to thank your co-volunteers and your local Coordinator for the outstanding work they do.

 Monica David, State Coordinator

Important Dates

March 25: Potpourri of Gardening, 8:30 am to Noon, Lutheran School Association, 2001 E Mound Rd., Decatur, IL. Sessions will be held on landscaping, garden tools, mosaic pots, hardscapes, utilizing organic wastes and cooking with herbs. Fee is \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Sponsored by Macon County Master Gardeners. 217-877-6042.

March 26: Chasing the MAGIC of Spring, 8:00 am until 4:00 pm. Danville Area Community College - Vermilion Hall #306, 2000 East Main St., Danville, IL. Keynote speaker is Jane Taylor, "Creating Magic Spaces." Other presenters are: Chad Garrett, "New Construction to Landscape Renovation, Design is the Key;" Judie Fair, "Awakening Your Garden;" and Pat Sollars, "Themes for a Summer Paradise." The registration fee of \$30.00 includes snacks and lunch. Sponsored by Danville Area Community College/Community Education and the University of Illinois Extension Danville Master Gardeners. To register or to find out more information, call 217-443-8778. Registration is required and seating is limited.

April 1: Garden Day, Sponsored by the Knox County Master Gardeners. 309-342-5108.

April 8: Attracting Hummingbirds "Make and Take" Workshop, Kane County Extension Office, 535 S Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL. 10 am - Noon. Judi Ann Saunders of Plains Woman Plantings will share hummingbird facts and demonstrate how to make a "welcome pot" to attract hummingbirds as they return to our area.. The cost of \$25 includes the workshop, handouts, material and plants to create a welcome pot including a window box nectar feeder. Register by calling 630-584-6166.

April 8: A Lawn and Garden Expo, 9 am to 4 pm, Stockton High School. Some of the topics will be: Unusual trees and shrubs, "What I learned from my Gardening Mistakes", and Tree Care and Diseases. There will be both non-profit and retail booths, so bring your checkbook and be sure to check them out. Entrance fee is \$5. There will be speakers throughout the day and door prizes provided by the vendors. The Expo will include a food court. Sponsored by the Jo-Daviess County Master Gardeners. 815-858-2273

April 12: Spring Garden Seminar, Celebrations 150 in Utica, IL. Speakers will be Jim Schuster, Greg Stack and Nancy Kuhajda. Registration 8:30-8:45 am. The program runs from 9 am to 4 pm. Sponsored by LaSalle

County Master Gardeners. 815-433-0707.

April 13: Gardening is More...than just Planting Seeds, 9:30 am to 2 pm., Edgar County Fairgrounds, Paris, IL. Classes include "What's New in the Garden" by Shane Cultra; "Digital Photography" by Tom Hebermel, prize winning amateur photographer; and the "Artistry of Gourds" by Mary Geekie. Program fee \$3, lunch \$7 (donation to MG's). Sponsored by the Edgar County Master Gardeners. 217-465-8585.

May 28-29: 18th Annual Whiteside Garden Ramble, 11 am to 5 pm. The garden is located three miles east of Charleston, IL. on Route 16 and the intersection of county Road 1820E (South). There will be numerous speakers and vendors plus a leisurely and delightful tour of a beautiful and unique 5-acre garden. Admission is \$6. Parking is free. This event is sponsored by the Coles County Historical Society. Contact Dan Hockman at 217-345-3171 or dmhockman@eiu.edu.

June 15-17: 2006 Upper Midwest Master Gardener Conference— Celebrating Garden Diversity, Cedar Rapids Marriott, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Celebrating Garden Diversity is our theme this year. A barbecue the evening of June 14 kicks off the festivities for the conference. June 15 will be a day filled with tours including the Amana colonies, private residences, and places to bring back treasures to your own diverse garden. The tours culminate at Bruce more estate for tours of the gardens, house, and dinner. June 16 and 17 are devoted to seminars with topics to include conifers, shade gardening, tree diseases, garden forums, peonies, invasive insects, and gardens of the world. Registration as well as the latest updates for the conference will be on the Iowa Master Gardener website <http://mastergardener.hort.iastate.edu/>.

July 27-29: National Children and Youth Gardening Symposium, The theme for the 14th annual symposium is "Cultivating a Sense of Place: A Youth gardening Adventure". Washington University and the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri. Engaging experts will present on horticultural and environmental education, storybook writing, hands-on experience and landscape designs for children. Registration opens May 1, 2006. http://www.ahs.org/youth_gardening/national_youth_garden_symposium.htm.

September 7-9: Illinois Master Gardener Conference, The Mark of the Quad Cities, Moline IL.

Deadline for submission of articles for the next issue is April 15, 2006.

Illinois Master Gardener Wins Scotts Good Neighbor Award *Scotts Give Back to Grow Award means \$5,000 for local Plant-A-Row effort*

Shirley Thompson will travel to Philadelphia in March to be honored as Scotts Good Neighbor Gardener of the Year. One of four awards given in the sixth annual Scotts "Give Back to Grow Awards," it salutes gardeners who donate produce to feed the hungry in their own communities through Plant a Row for the Hungry (PAR) program. Each winner receives a \$5,000 cash prize.



Garden Writers Association
Toll-Free Hotline: 877.492.2727

A Winnebago County Master Gardener since 1997, Thompson used her organizational skills, love of gardening & compassion for her fellow man to propel the PAR program to a major force in alleviating hunger in five years.

Under her leadership the number of pounds of produce donated has risen from just over 6,000 in 2001 to more than 16,000 in 2005.

Her plan was to establish community gardens (including one at the Illinois Extension Service Office) for PAR harvest, set up collection points and educate the public on hunger & how to alleviate it through gardening.

Thompson sought out the media for television, radio and newspaper coverage of PAR's launch in the spring & early summer & manned PAR education booths at two garden shows. She sought seed packet donations from local garden centers & national companies for garden starter kits to give away to those who pledged to donate harvested produce to PAR. The kits contained three to five seed packets, PAR collection information, a PAR row marker, a small packet of Osmocote ® (donated by Scotts), growing instructions & a PAR brochure. More than 250 kits were assembled by Thompson & the Winnebago County Master Gardeners.

Plant A Row for the Hungry is a national campaign of the Garden Writers Association of America in conjunction with Master Gardeners. Its purpose is to create & sustain a grassroots program whereby garden writers utilize their media position with local newspapers, magazines and radio/TV programs to encourage their readers/listeners to donate their surplus garden produce to local food banks, soup kitchens & organizations to help feed America's hungry.

Growing Power

Growing Power is a nationwide non-profit organization and land trust supporting people from diverse backgrounds and the environments they live in through the development of Community Food Systems. These systems provide high-quality, safe, healthy, affordable food for all residents in the community. The organization develops Community Food Centers - through training, active demonstration, outreach, and technical assistance. Community Food Centers are local places where people learn sustainable practices to grow, process, market and distribute food. Examples of three projects in Illinois are-



Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance: The Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance embraced the vision after staff attended a training in February, 2002. They returned to Chicago and began planning their community food center project, working with Growing Power's Chicago office to fundraise and collaborate with other organizations and receive training in the challenging enterprise of farming in a urban setting from Growing Power trainers. The Market Basket program (available in conventional and organic) via a Rainbow Farmers Cooperative supports both farmers and consumers; it was introduced to Chicago via the Alliance for the Garfield Park & west side community.

Main Stream Living: Healthy Harvest Program provides bi-monthly distribution of Market Basket for seniors living in CHA (Chicago Housing Authority) buildings on Chicago's North, West and South sides. The innovative approach this organization is taking with community food security is by integrating this program with other services ranging from utility bill assistance to job training.

Chicago Lakefront Garden: Growing Power partnered with the Chicago Park District and Moore Landscapes to create a 20,000 square foot urban farm on Chicago's lakefront adjacent to the Buckingham Fountain and Lincoln Memorial. Over 60 varieties of heirloom vegetables, herbs and edible flowers were grown and distributed to area food pantries and soup kitchens. Assisting Growing Power's staff were 15 youth from nearby communities, employed to learn how to grow food. For information on attending a training or to learn more about Growing Power visit their website at <http://growingpower.org>

University of Illinois Partners with Community Colleges to Develop Only Horticultural Bachelors Program in Chicago Area

New degree completion program will allow students to continue from an associates degree to earn a bachelors degree and fill gaps in growing “green industry”

The University of Illinois will soon fill a critical gap in the Chicago academic market by bringing its horticultural baccalaureate degree program to the Chicago. The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science (NRES), in partnership with the University’s Office of Continuing Education, and area community colleges will offer students the final two years of coursework needed to complement their community college courses and earn a bachelors of science in horticulture. Pending IBHE approval, this will be the first horticulture bachelors program offered by either a private or public institution in the Chicago area.

Reaching out to non-traditional students, typically working professionals who are managing school, work and family, the University and community colleges hope to provide an opportunity for students to seek their horticulture degree without “pulling up roots” and relocating to the Urbana campus. The program will originally locate most of its courses at the Multi-University Center in Oak Brook, and future courses at the University Center at Lake County as well as potential satellite locations throughout the collar counties and the city of Chicago. Satellite locations for laboratory courses include the Morton Arboretum and the Center for Green Technology in Chicago.

Jobs in the green industry are abundant. The 2003 Green Industry survey conducted by NRES cites a \$4.72 billion dollar industry employing over 15,000 people in the state of Illinois. That survey also discovered that in 2003 “12 percent of product and 25 percent of service sector firms were unable to fill all of their open positions. About 2 percent of end-user employers were unable to fill all openings. These unfilled positions numbered over 8,000.” The University hopes to make it easier for students to achieve their professional goals and for employers to fill the growing number of positions in the field.

With the same standards of quality as the U of I on-campus program, the new Chicago area bachelors program will have a concentration in horticulture production and management, and will utilize tenure-track faculty and well-qualified adjunct faculty from industry. The program’s objectives and learning outcomes are related to the goal of preparing students for careers in production, marketing, management, and use of horticultural flower, landscape, and food crops; in teaching, research, or other related professional activity; as preparation for graduate studies or for advanced professional training; or in a business providing services related to horticultural crops.

Traditional and alternate methods of content delivery will be utilized, although the primary mode of instructional delivery is expected to be in-person instruction. It is anticipated that the majority of courses will be offered in the evening, on weekends, and possibly on an eight-week schedule in consideration of the student workday schedule. Some courses may be offered on-line or via video conferencing as appropriate. Student learning will be promoted through laboratory courses, internships, field trips and an underlying commitment to student growth and development as exemplified by the University of Illinois.

For information about the new degree completion program in horticulture, contact Ms. Mary Lowry, NRES Student Services Coordinator, at (217) 244-5416 or by e-mail at lowry@uiuc.edu. You can also visit www.nres.uiuc.edu for additional information.

The University hopes to further additional goals of *The Illinois Commitment* by providing economic growth to the “green” and related industries in the state by making possible an affordable education, and enhancing “access and diversity” to higher education through this high quality program that reflects the standards of the University of Illinois. The mission of Continuing Education and Academic Outreach is to provide opportunities for lifelong learning and distance education by extending the resources of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Summer 2006 Course Offering
Plant Pathology 409
“Diseases of Ornamentals and Turf”

This 3 credit hour course will be taught via interactive 2-way video. This course is for green industry professionals, those in the off-campus master’s program in NRES or Crop Sciences and Master Gardeners.

Locations: Oak Brook Multi-University Center, University Center of Lake County and the Champaign (UIUC campus)

Instructor: Dr. Don White, UIUC Professor

Dates: Mondays and Wednesdays on May 15th, 17th, 22nd, 24th, 31st, and June 12th, 14th and 21st, 26th and 28th, 2006. A review session date will be arranged with the students.

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

Fees: \$175 for non-credit (flat fee for the course), \$275 per credit hour for Graduate hours, and \$251 per credit hour for undergraduates.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students taking this course will learn about the symptoms, diagnosis, causal agents, epidemiology and control of diseases in ornamentals and turf grass plants. This course will consist of two-way video lectures and student discussions. This course is designed to meet the needs of the advanced Master Gardener, those seeking graduate credit toward a M.S. degree and professionals dealing with ornamentals and turf grasses.

NOTE: This course is recommended to Master Gardeners that have some science background prior to taking this course. The course will include homework and closed book quizzes and tests. The course is offered as a college course rather than a Master Gardener continuing education class so there will be considerable out of class work to be completed.

Upon successful completion of this course, active Master Gardeners will receive a certificate and pin signifying “advanced certification in diseases”. Others, including the general public, are welcome to take the course for personal enrichment, or for MG interns this course may be taken for CEU’s.

To register, please visit www.outreach.uiuc.edu

For more information and to register contact:



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Master Gardener Apparel for Sale

This newsletter includes a color sell sheet and order blank for the 2006 apparel. 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. 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, 2006.**

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