



Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,
News and Education

Vol. 7 No. 3
May-June 2006

Coordinators' Comments

With spring comes graduation and we welcome 536 new interns to our volunteer ranks. Spring is also the time when I tally all the statistics for the previous year. Once again, Master Gardeners exceeded their volunteer efforts from the previous year.

3,475 active Master Gardeners
151,269 volunteer hours were recorded (71 of 78 units)
36,009 education hours were recorded

41 units reported data for Clients Served:
Hotlines/Walk-in Questions- 45,784
Off-site answer booths- 15,989
Attendees at talks given by MGs- 12,946
Therapy gardening-4,986
Pounds of produce donated to PAR-191,575
Garden Days-3,855
Garden Walks- 11,268
Junior Master Gardener- 969
Youth programs- 12,661
Youth summer camps- 776
4-H judging- 2,507

Announcements

- The McLean County Master Gardeners have donated \$100 to the state Master Gardener fund in honor of David Robson, extension educator. David was the closing speaker at the Home, Lawn and Garden Day in March. Thanks to David and the Master Gardeners.
- **State Awards-** It is now time to nominate exceptional volunteers and teamwork projects for the state Outstanding Master Gardener, Sustained Excellence and Teamwork awards. These awards will be presented at the state conference in Moline this fall. All submissions need to go through your local coordinator. **Nominations are due to the state office by June 16th.**

- **Missing Videotapes-** During the 2005 training season, the VHS tapes of the Fruit and the Vegetable trainings were borrowed from the state office. These tapes were never returned. If you borrowed one of these tapes, please return it to the state office.

Determining Conference Fees

I am frequently asked how I determine registration costs for the state conference. The reality is that the conference must be self sustaining and the fees paid by attendees must cover all the expenses.

It is really a gamble to weigh the projected expenses versus the estimated number of attendees & then determine the registration fee (one I have been fairly successful so far in estimating!). The actual registration fee you pay is based on the following expenses: meeting room rental, AV equipment, speaker fees, meals (the largest expense), gratuities (usually 20%), conference bags, awards for state winners, tour buses, tour expenses such as lunches or entry fees, entertainment, decorations, copying expenses, & registration materials. The meeting room rental is based on the number of meals served & the sleeping rooms we occupy. I am able to negotiate the cost of the sleeping rooms based on projected number of attendees. If we do not fill our committed number of sleeping rooms we can face hefty penalty fees. Last year in 2005, conference numbers were slightly lower than expected. This may have been due to the location (i.e. - an area with lower numbers of active Master Gardeners) but more likely was due to the rising fuel and living costs.

Since my first conference with the program in 2000, the costs of three things have risen appreciably. Speakers are now requesting mileage and hotel along with an honorarium. Convention center fees and meal costs have also risen considerably. However, the largest increase has been the cost of tour buses. Diesel prices have risen drastically and in March 2006, the University enacted a new insurance requirement for our bus companies. These two factors have resulted in a 60% cost increase for charter buses for tours.

Please be aware that I make every effort to keep your registration costs to a minimum while still maintaining a quality conference. I think you will find that the 2006 conference will be a great bargain. Plan to join us in Moline this fall for great classes, tours & most importantly the opportunity to network with other volunteers.

 Monica David, Master Gardener State Coordinator

Important Dates

June 8: NW Region Master Gardener Leadership Symposium, 9 am to 3 pm. Klehm Arboretum, Rockford, IL. Workshop is designed to encourage interaction and collaboration between counties and its Master Gardeners and their coordinators. Discussion and brainstorming activities designed to take a fresh look at: Demonstration Gardens, Help Desk, Fundraising and Working with Youth. Two representatives from each NW Region county can sign up at no cost. Additional participants can attend at a cost of \$10.00 per person. Lunch included. Contact Chris Hilgert in the Knox County Office at 309-342-5108.

June 15-17: Upper Midwest Master Gardener Conference (Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois), Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The theme for this conference is "Celebrating Diversity". Six outstanding all day tours on June 15th are followed by a dinner at the Bruce more. A wide array of topics will be covered in breakout session on June 16-17. Keynote speakers include Diane Whealy from Seed Savers exchange; David Cavagnaros, renowned photographer and manager of genetic preservation gardens for Seed Savers; Jamie Beyer, Past President of the Central Iowa Water Garden Association and Lindsay David Lee, garden designer and perennial nursery owner. A complete brochure and registration materials may be found on the Illinois Master Gardener website at <http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/>

July 27-29: National Children and Youth Gardening Symposium, St. Louis, Missouri. The theme for the 14th annual symposium is "Cultivating a Sense of Place: A Youth Gardening Adventure". Engaging speakers and experts will present on horticultural and environmental education, storybook writing, hands-on experiences and landscape designs for children. Keynote speaker is Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*. The meeting will be headquartered on the campus of Washington University. On-campus dormitory style housing will be available. Registration opens May 1 at 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 June 15, 2006.

Spotlight on Livingston County Master Gardeners

Livingston County lies in the northern part of central Illinois with scenic Route 66 diagonally dissecting it. The county seat, Pontiac, is surrounded by many unique small towns and some of the richest farmland in the state.

The Master Gardeners in Livingston County are a small but active group. Prior to 1998, there were only five MG's but numbers have steadily grown to 23 members in 2006.

Monthly meetings are supplemented by committee meetings. Some meetings also function as in-service activities, with programs given by the Master Gardeners or outside experts. Master Gardeners answer calls to the Horticulture Hotline during the gardening season and take referrals according to their expertise during the off season. They have contributed articles to the local newspaper and have been interviewed on our local radio station. Some MG's have submitted articles to the Livingston County Extension Lawn & Garden Guide and the Extension Newsletter.

The Master Gardeners are available for program requests from the many organizations in the County. One series of programs is given at the Pontiac Public Library each summer. This year there will also be programs that are part of the Children's Summer Reading Program.

Over the years, Master Gardeners have worked with the local nursing homes, children's groups and the developmentally disabled to add gardens to their residences and the joy of gardening to their lives. Participation at various community functions, such as the Senior Fair, includes answering questions at the U of I Master Gardener booth and putting on demonstrations.

Master Gardeners have assisted the 4H fair in many capacities including fair superintendents and judges. The children in 4H are one of our priorities with workshops and individual programs as part of our outreach. Other community projects include designing gardens at the Livingston County courthouse and libraries and downtown areas in various towns.

The most recent project for this year is designing a garden at the new Livingston County Jail. The jail is beginning its operational status at the end of April. There are many challenges to the location and needs of the project. Plans are to start slowly and grow into the large area according to the needs of the facility. The first stage, beginning in May, includes several islands of perennials. Fall should bring bulbs and more expansion.

The Master Gardener volunteers have a wide variety of interests and talents. They have managed to work both together and individually to help the citizens of Livingston County.

 Connie Kostelc –Livingston County Master Gardener

Chairperson's Chat

Optimism and Options

Along with the daffodils, optimism blooms abundantly in spring. Gardeners always think this year will be better. We would have quit gardening years ago if optimism didn't run along with the chlorophyll in our veins.

As gardeners we also have to deal with things we can't control. The weather is the big one. For most of us drought was the issue last year. So this year we can consider setting up rain barrels, using soaker hoses and relying more on plants that don't require as much water at least once they are established. I have an economic Darwinian garden. It's survival of the fittest and the most expensive.

There are some perennial problems which we can control. If the asters flopped over last year, they will flop over this year. If the beebalm got powdery mildew last year, you can pretty well assume it will happen again this year.

To remedy floppy plants we could, of course, consider staking. The garden industry is more than willing to take our money for all sorts of specialized stakes. It is so nice to have that perfect stake for the four foot tall lilies that like to lean on their neighbors. For some plants such as aster, sedum and balloon flower a good haircut may be in order to fix the floppies. A book *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* by Tracy DiSabato-Aust details the "when and how" of perennial pruning to keep them more compact or delay blooming. For instance balloon flower and aster can be cut back by half in late May to Early June to reduce height. Pinch the new shoots of sedum when plants are 6-8 inches tall to reduce their open centers.

Phlox and beebalm are notorious for getting the fungus powdery mildew on their leaves. It generally doesn't kill the plant but the leaves may brown and wither. We can thin plants in the area to improve air circulation, avoid overhead watering and plant in full sun to help reduce powdery mildew. Good sanitation by removing diseased leaves as symptoms appear and at the end of the season may also help. Fungicides could also be used before the disease occurs. Disease resistant cultivars are, however, the best option.

According to the Chicago Botanic Garden's plant evaluation trials some summer blooming phlox which show good powdery mildew resistance are: 'Bright Eyes' (pink, ruby red eye), 'David' (white), 'Eva Cullum' (pink, dark red eye), 'Franz Schubert' (lilac, darker eye) and 'The King' (purple-lavender). 'Chattahoochee' (lavender blue,

violet eye) rated high as an early bloomer in May – June. There are hundreds of cultivars of various species of phlox. Consider disease resistance along with flower color.

In the CBG beebalm trials the best performers for mildew resistance and flower show included 'Blue Wreath', 'Colrain Red', 'Falls of Hills Creek', 'Gardenview Scarlet', 'Marshalls Delight', 'Raspberry Wine', 'Rose Queen' and 'Violet Queen'. Unfortunately the lowest rated beebalm cultivars are often the most available such as 'Cambridge Scarlet', 'Croftway Pink' and 'Beauty of Cobham'.

The take-home lesson? Don't ask for trouble by using problem children plants. Control what you can and roll with what you can't. Remain optimistic. Never stop learning and you will never grow old. As Thomas Jefferson said, "Although I am an old man, I am but a young gardener".

 Sandy Mason –Advisory Committee Chairperson

Diseases of Ornamentals & Turf

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.

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

Fees: \$175 for non-credit (flat fee for the course)

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. *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".

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

For more information contact: Heather A. Miller

E-mail: hmiller1@uiuc.edu



2006 Master Gardener Conference

The Mark of the Quad Cities

Moline, IL.

September 7,8,9

The Master Gardeners of the NW region invite you to share the glorious gardens and rich history of the Quad Cities. With a population of more than 400,000, the Quad Cities rests on the banks of the mighty Mississippi and includes the riverfront cities of Davenport and Bettendorf in Iowa and Moline and East Moline in Illinois. Moline is the world headquarters of Deere & Company and the John Deere Pavilion, the largest comprehensive agricultural exhibit in the world, is just across the street from our conference headquarters. Enjoy the lovely restaurants and shops in the newly renovated city center; the beautiful botanical centers and public gardens on our tours and try your luck at attractions like the riverboat casinos. The Quad cities has something to please everyone!

What's new for 2006?

A trip to the Quad cities would not be complete without a riverboat excursion. Join fellow gardeners on a Celebration River cruise on the evening of September 7. We will cruise on the Celebration Belle, the largest passenger vessel on the upper Mississippi. The group will enjoy a buffet dinner, a 2 1/2 hour cruise on the river and live entertainment. The awards banquet usually held on Thursday evening will be moved to Friday evening this year. Saturday lunch will feature the popular Silent Auction. Vendors, yes lots of vendors, will be on hand Friday to satisfy that shopping urge for plants, garden items and much more!

Second Annual Great Container Design Challenge

Its time to "Go Creative" and prepare your unit's entry for the Second Annual Great Container Design Challenge which will be held during the State Master Gardener Conference in September. Last year's entries were terrific and the Master Gardeners in the Northwest Region would like to see even more entries this year. The top 20 containers will be auctioned off by professional auctioneers at the Friday night banquet.

So start planning your plant material and container entry. This year we are limiting the size to something that will fit in the back seat of a compact car. The Jo Daviess/Carroll Unit is in charge of the event this year. Please contact Patt Caldwell at: cwellpd@internetni.com or call 815-244-3205 if you are planning to bring an entry. For pictures of last years containers visit the website at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/jdc/>



Lively Keynote Speaker to Reveal the “Wilder Side of Gardening”

The featured keynote speaker for the 2006 conference will be **Carol Reese**. Carol works for the University of Tennessee as a specialist in ornamental horticulture. Carol has also served as hostess for the Memphis television station WREG's popular *Mid South Gardens*. She has frequently been a guest on radio for various gardening programs, and is a weekly gardening/nature columnist for regional newspapers.

A Wide Variety of Classes and Workshops will be Featured

Conference attendees will have a wide variety of classes and workshops to choose from. Workshops and demos include Bird Houses, Bath Salts, Leaf Castings and Mushroom Logs. You will have the opportunity to choose 6 classes over the course of two days. A sampling of class topics include: Asian Maples, “Possums Under the Porch”, CSI Plant Pathology, Monarchs, Peonies, Landscaping Side Yards, Scented Geraniums, Azaleas & Rhododendrons and Therapeutic Gardening.

An all-star cast of speakers is led by Rita Randolph, owner of Randolph's Greenhouses, who writes a regular column for *The City News* of Jackson, TN. Rita has her own local TV show, has been featured in *GMP* magazine and *Greenhouse Grower* and is an enthusiastic speaker throughout the country.

Glorious Garden Tours to be Offered

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 Children's garden.

Four local half day tours will be offered. Tour stops for morning tours include the Quad City Botanical Center and the Mississippi River Visitor Center or Local Rain Gardens and the Quad City Botanical Center. Afternoon tours will visit Vander Veer Park and the gardens at the Butterworth & Deere Wiman homes or Blackhawk State Park and the Butterworth & Deere Wiman gardens.

We need your help for our Silent Auction!

We need your help to make the 3rd annual Silent Auction a success. We are looking for donations of artwork, sculpture, paintings, books, garden tools, garden gifts etc. The profits made from the auction benefit the state Master Gardener office for expenses such as the Imagine newsletter. You may bring your donation to the conference with you but please contact the Ogle County office (815-732-2191) and let them know what you are bringing.

Plan to Join Us in the Quad Cities

Join us in Moline on September 7, 8 and 9th. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Radisson on John Deere Commons (adjacent to The Mark) at a conference rate of \$81/night for a standard room and \$91/night for a one bedroom suite. 309-764-1000. Watch for complete details and registration materials in the July-August Imagine.

Volunteers Go the Extra Mile!

It is a rare and high privilege to be in a position to help people understand the differences that they can make not only in their own lives but in the lives of others by simply giving of themselves. Helen Boosalis

The last week of April was designated National Volunteer Week. Thank-you to all Illinois Master Gardeners for your service to extension and your communities. Your time and talents are the force that drives the work we do in our communities with youth, the elderly, the incarcerated and the home gardener eager for gardening education. Each one of you has truly made the mission of "Helping Others Learn to Grow" a reality.

At this time of year, I like to recognize volunteers who have gone way beyond the 30 required hours of service. Since the state office began tracking individual volunteer hours in 2000, 163 Illinois Master Gardeners have given over 500 hours of service; 48 have given over 1000 volunteer hours; 7 have donated more than 2000 hours and 2 have volunteered greater than 3,000 hours. Volunteers with over 2,000 hours will receive a \$50 discount and those with greater than 3,000 hours will receive a \$75 discount for conference registration.

Greater than 1000 hours:

Robert Muller (CBG)-1006	Bob Coppernoll (Peoria)-1018.5	Lynn Webb (Peoria)- 1021.5
Katie Grady (Peoria)- 1033.5	Ralph Underwood (Vermilion) -1052	Sharon Moderwell (Lake)- 1052
Rhoda Muchmore (CBG)- 1059	Russell Zapel (CBG)-1080	Nancy Miles (Cook South Sub.)-1081
Mary Moore (Logan)- 1081	Anton Weber (CBG)- 1098	Marvin MacDonald (Vermilion)-1106
Camille Hanzlik (Kendall)-1117.5	Harry Clayton (Edgar)- 1120	Judy Diehl (Winnebago)-1129
Celia Turner (Lake)- 1137.5	Sherry Egloff (CBG)-1161	Ron Smith (Madison-St. Clair)- 1161
Elaine Weil (DuPage)- 1164.5	Betty Jepsen (DuPage)-1175	Sally Olds (CBG)- 1189
Kathleen King (Lake)- 1191	Helen Leake (McLean)- 1236.5	Judy Sager (Crawford)- 1247
Ann Tice (Champaign)- 1260	Shirley Waters (Rock Island)- 1276	Janice Becker (CBG)- 1286
Ron Maida (Kendall) 1295.5	Joanne Manella (CBG)-1309	Caroline Gherardini (Sang-Men)1309.5
Jim Kemper (CBG)-1317	James Simon (Champaign)-1334	Marvin Ganek (CBG)-1366
Howard Bressler (CBG)-1370	Maggie Oester (Lee)-1407.5	Sam Darin (CBG)-1430
Sam Goldman (CBG)-1451	Anita Portugal (CBG)-1456	Carol McClure (Champaign)-1520
Elaine Juhl (CBG)- 1559	Nancy Reise (CBG)- 1644	Dorothy Ksiakiewicz (Vermilion)1666
Barbara Savitt (CBG)-1692	Susan Lyons (Lake)-1732	Charlynn Schweingruber (CBG)1782
Hope Forcier (Lake)-1791	Doug Wood (Cook)- 1823	Mariellen Griffith (McLean)- 1918.5

Greater than 2000 hours:

Linda Smith (McLean)- 2084.5	Alvin Hanzlik (Kendall)-2164	Linda Kopacz (Kendall)-2176
Adrianna Lutter (Kendall)- 2207	Julie Hughes (Vermilion)- 2391.5	Patti Kirkpatrick (Will)-2565
Diana Husband (Cook South Sub.)-2583		

Greater than 3,000 hours:

Janice Cook (CBG)- 3630	Joe Temple (LaSalle)- 5194
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In the year 2005 alone, 29 volunteers donated more than 300 volunteer hours to their local programs. The three volunteers with the most hours were: **Janice Cook** (Chicago Botanic Garden)- 704 hours; **Julie Hughes** (Vermilion County)- 796 hours and **Patti Kirkpatrick** (Will County)- 940 hours.

Advanced Master Gardener Tree I.D. Classes

Do you have trouble telling a white oak from a burr oak? Are you not quite sure what a *Taxodium distichum* is? Then the Advanced Master Gardener Tree I.D. class may be for you. You'll receive 24 hours of classroom and field instruction (that count towards your annual continuing education requirement), learning approximately 70 trees that grow in your area of the state. This class will only be available to currently active Master Gardeners. However, if the class does not fill up, Master Gardener interns may enroll as well as those who have already taken the course. Interns if accepted, will not be eligible to receive the designation of Advanced Master Gardener. Please plan to attend all six class periods of the section for which you sign up. Participants will be allowed one excused absence (not the final exam day) but will be responsible for learning the missed material on their own. **Please note that all class periods will involve walking to observe trees in the field.**

Each section will have a minimum of 15 and maximum of 25 students. You'll receive class handouts to help in identifying the trees and on successfully completing the course by attending at least 5 sessions in your section and passing the final exam, you'll receive a certificate and a pin identifying you as an Advanced Master Gardener in Tree I.D.

Cost of the class is \$50, payable to the University of Illinois. **Send registration** to the State Master Gardener Office, 1201 S. Dorner Dr., Urbana, IL 61801 **by June 15.** No credit cards will be accepted.

Indicate with your registration form which section you are signing up for. Dates, times, locations and instructors for the sections of the class are:

Section 1: Instructor – Martha Smith; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; McDonough Extension Office, Western Illinois University, Standish Arboretum, Galesburg and Monmouth College. July 13, 27, August 10, 24, Sept 5 or 14 and Sept 28.

Section 2: Instructor– Monica David; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Southern Illinois University campus-Edwardsville, Greenville College, and one or two other locations. Sept 13, 20, 27 and October 4, 18 and 25th. Optional review October 24th.

Section 3: Instructor– Sandy Mason; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; various locations in Champaign-Urbana, Sept. 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13, 20(optional review) and 27th.

Section 4: Instructor– David Robson; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Locations in Springfield and Bloomington. Sept 1, 8 or 15, 22, 29 and October 6, 13.

Advanced Master Gardener Training-Tree I.D.

Reserve your space by June 15th, 2006

Please complete this registration form and return it along with your \$50 check made payable to the University of Illinois: Attn: Monica David, Illinois Master Gardener State Coordinator, 1201 S. Dorner Drive, Urbana, Il. 61801. Be sure to indicate which session you will attend.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____ County _____

Choose only one section:

Section I _____ Section 2 _____ Section 3 _____ Section 4 _____

Horticulture Therapy or Therapy Gardening?

The state advisory committee has voted to discontinue using the term Horticulture Therapy for our projects. Instead we will refer to them as Therapy Gardening or Therapeutic Horticulture. Registered Horticulture therapists are specially trained and educated members of rehabilitation teams. The demand for qualified therapists has prompted universities & colleges to offer BA, associates and certificate degrees to qualified individuals. The American Horticulture Therapy Association (AHTA) promotes the development of HT programming as well as recognizing and registering Horticulture Therapists thru a national voluntary registry program. For more information about Hort Therapy degrees and programs refer to the AHTA website at <http://www.ahta.org>

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