



Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,
News and Education

Vol. 7 No. 4
July-August 2006

Coordinators' Comments

It has been an interesting week or so for Illinois Extension educators and Master Gardener hotlines. On June 13, the Illinois Department of Agriculture announced that the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has finally surfaced in Illinois. Several infected trees were found in the "Windings Subdivision" near Geneva in Kane County. Since that time, the phones have been ringing off the hook around the state and many of you have been inundated with calls from anxious homeowners. It is your job as "first detectors" to screen callers for possible EAB. Phil Nixon, Extension Entomology Specialist, has sent a questionnaire and flier to every extension office to aid you in this process. Hort educators are in the process of putting together a fact sheet with more information, as well as "look-alike" insect pictures. First and foremost in your screening, be sure that the caller can ID the tree in question. A large percentage of the calls received have been in reference to the EAB on trees other than ash. This pest only infects ash trees. Secondly, there are numerous other tree disorders on ash—verticillium, borers, ash decline, cankers etc.—to rule out. If the symptoms sound like a possible case of EAB, contact the IL. Department of Agriculture. It would be impossible for us to go out and look at every suspect tree—please narrow the suspect cases and leave the home visits to the Ag inspectors. Your cooperation and vigilance in working with the public will make the detection and eradication of this pest go smoothly.

Conference 2006:

This newsletter includes information and registration materials for the September state conference. I have done registration differently this year and have allowed you more choice to pick and choose what you want to attend. Costs for events like the tours and dinner cruise are charged separately so that you only need pay for what you attend. We hope to see you in Moline in September!

 Monica David, IL. Master Gardener Coordinator

U of I to Offer Horticulture Bachelor's Degree in Chicago Area

The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) along with the Office of Continuing Education and area community colleges will offer students the final years of coursework needed to complement their associate level courses and earn a B.S. in Horticulture. The University has partnered with Morton Arboretum and the Chicago Botanic Garden to host on-site courses.

The University hopes to make it easier for students to achieve their professional goals and for employers in the Green Industry to fill the growing number of positions in the field. 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.

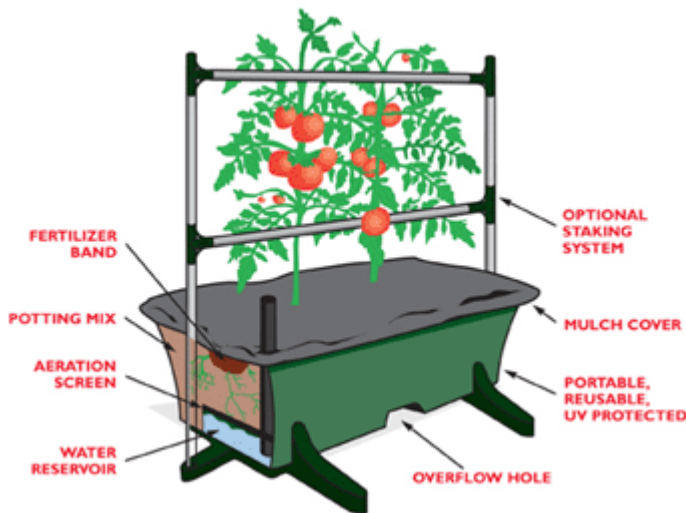
By partnering with two of the premier environmental education agencies in the Chicago area, the program will offer courses at convenient and inviting locations—The Morton Arboretum, the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Multi-University Center in Oakbrook. Courses in Plant Propagation; Woody Landscape Plants; Forest and Landscape Insects and Residential Site Design will be offered in Fall 2006. The new Chicago-area bachelors' program will have a concentration in horticulture production and management. Courses will be taught by tenure tract faculty and highly qualified adjunct faculty. Traditional and alternate methods of delivery will be used, although the primary mode will 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.

For more information contact Mary Lowry at 217-244-5761 or by email at lowry@uiuc.edu

Earthboxes™

Home Grown Vegetables Without a Garden

A new revolutionary growing system called the EarthBox™ was developed by commercial farmers and has been tested in the lab and on the farm. The unit controls soil conditions, fertilizer and water use within one complete growing system. The system is a container that is made of recycled plastic. It comes in three different colors (green, terra cotta and white) and is being manufactured and marketed by The EarthBox Co., 1300 Meylert Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509. It is sold as an empty container (plus plastic cover) or it can be supplied as a ready-to-grow kit, complete with potting media and fertilizer. Recently, certain accessories (staking system and a caster kit) have been added as options to the package.



The empty container sells for \$37.95 (quantity 1-2) plus S&H, whereas the ready-to-grow kit goes for \$59.95 plus S&H. Quantity discounts are available. For more information, please refer to their website @ www.earthbox.com (sections under construction).

The EarthBox™ appears to be a very simple and yet ingenious concept. It is being touted as “the garden of the future,” and it has--so far--shown a lot of promise to be just that. Plants grow in a sterile potting mix and are nourished by a line of fertilizer spread across the top. The bottom of the container is a water reservoir (about 2.2 gallons), equipped with an overflow hole. The potting media is supported by a perforated aeration platform on a grid above the water reservoir. The position of the overflow hole allows for a minimum of 0.5-1.0 inch of air space between the media and the fluctuating water level.

he two rear corners of the platform are cut away, allowing the media to extend into the water reservoir. This provides a seepage route (through capillary action) for water. Lastly, the “mulch cover” (a plastic shower cap shaped cover) stops weeds and conserves water.

The EarthBox™ concept was brought to the limelight by The Growing Connection™ (TGC) project. According to the latter’s literature,

“TGC is a people-driven pilot project developed by the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO – www.fao.org) and the American Horticultural Society (www.ahs.org) to realize innovative, sustainable solutions to hunger, malnutrition and poverty worldwide. Students around the globe grow food together using low-cost, water-efficient and sustainable food growing techniques to fight hunger, to learn and to earn income through entrepreneurship. Using IT connectivity and the Internet, students capture relevant information, contact expert sources and communicate with each other, fostering innovation and cultural exchange.”

And the literature continues,

“An important project component is The EarthBox, a low-cost and highly water-efficient food-growing tool. This enables the students to participate simultaneously in the same water-saving, food-growing activities.”

The pilot project by TGC kicked off in 2003 with a few sites in Ghana. In 2004 it added sites in Mexico and in the U.S.A., including Chicago, the flagship city for the project in the United States. Nicaragua has since been added, whereas expansion inquiries are being considered for several other countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

In Chicago, the project’s primary partners are the Garfield Park Conservatory and the University of Illinois Extension’s Master Gardener Program. Earthboxes™ were demonstrated by Master Gardeners at the 2006 Chicago Flower and Garden Show. The main thrust continues to be centered on a select number of schools in the Chicagoland area. Some containers found their way to the Cook County Jail, again through the efforts of Master Gardeners.

✍ Steve Canavis, Cook South Sub. Master Gardener



2006 Illinois Master Gardener Conference September 7-9 The Mark of the Quad Cities, Moline, IL.

Hosted by the Master Gardeners from the Northwest Region

The Master Gardeners from Rock Island, Knox, Ogle, Henry–Stark, and Jo Daviess-Carroll Counties invite you to the Quad cities to share “New Ideas in Gardening”. The conference will be held at The Mark on the John Deere Commons & Moline Center which feature excellent restaurants, upscale shopping (visit the *Isabel Bloom* shop during your stay!) and a resplendent river-themed green space. Join them for a river boat cruise, glorious garden tours & excellent learning sessions.

2006 Silent Auction

Donations are needed for the third annual silent auction to be held at the state conference in Moline IL. on Saturday, September 9. The committee is looking for items such as original art pieces, outdoor garden sculpture, garden gifts, books, experimental or new plant varieties, garden tools etc. Use your imagination! Please send items rather than gift certificates if possible. The donor will be recognized in the conference printed material. The proceeds from the auction benefit the operating expenses for the State Master Gardener program (i.e. printing and mailing costs for the *Imagine* newsletter, Master Gardener awards and educational programs). These items may either be sent to the Ogle county office or brought directly to the conference in Moline. However, please contact the Ogle county office- Bill Lindemier at 815-732-2191 or lindenb@uiuc.edu and let them know what you are donating. **We are requesting that you include the name of the donor, your county and an estimated value with your donation.**

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. Last year’s entries were terrific & 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 bringing an entry. For pictures of last years containers visit the website at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/jdc/>

Schedule at a Glance

Thursday September 7

7:30 am	Registration open at the Radisson
8:15 am to 4:30 pm	All Day Tour to Dubuque Arboretum (includes lunch)
8:45 am to 11:45 am	Tour A- QC Botanical Center& Miss. River Visitor Center
8:15 am to 11:30 am	Tour B- Rain Gardens & QC Botanical Center
11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Lunch on your own
1:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Tour C- Vander Veer Park/Deere Wyman & Butterworth
1:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Tour D- Blackhawk Park/Deere Wyman & Butterworth
6:00 pm	Shuttles leave for river cruise (or dinner on your own)
6:30 pm	Celebration Belle leaves dock
9:00 pm	Celebration Belle returns to dock, shuttles to hotel

Friday September 8

8:00 am	Registration open at The Mark of the Quad Cities
8:30 am to 10:00 am	Keynote-Carol Reese "The Wilder Side of Gardening"
10:00 am to 10:30 am	Break and vendors
10:30 am to Noon	Educational sessions A
Noon to 1:30 pm	Lunch with door prizes and vendors
1:30 pm to 3 pm	Educational sessions B
3:00 pm to 3:30 pm	Break and vendors
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm	Educational sessions C
6:00 pm	Happy Hour
6:30 pm	Awards banquet and container auction

Saturday September 9

8:00 am	Registration open at The Mark of the Quad Cities
8:30 am to 10:00 am	Educational sessions D
10:00 am to 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am to Noon	Educational sessions E
Noon to 1:30 pm	Lunch and Silent Auction
1:30 pm to 3:00 pm	Educational sessions F

Conference ends- See you next year in Springfield!

Tours

Thursday September 7

ALL DAY TOUR– Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Garden

(Bus leaves at 8:15 am and returns by 4:30 pm, \$40– includes lunch) Limit 105

Enjoy the fall scenery on this trip along the river to Dubuque. The 52 acre arboretum is a real delight for the senses. You can stroll a formal rose garden, an English knot garden, an herb garden, a hosta garden, Japanese garden and the Mr. McGregor's children's garden. The 375 volunteers or the "Green Team" as they call themselves, plant, and maintain the gardens. The volunteers also run the Iowa State and All American test gardens which have received 12 consecutive awards.

HALF-DAY TOURS

Tour A– Quad City Botanical Center & Mississippi River Visitor Center

(Bus leaves at 8:45 am and returns by 11:30 am, \$20) Limit 53

The tour will begin at the Botanical Center where the tropical Sun garden boasts one of the nation's most uniquely designed conservatories. The awesome waterfall, island gardens with palms, orchids, bromeliads and colorful birds offer an uplifting experience. Gorgeous outdoor gardens are infused with perennials, ornamental grasses and conifers. The next stop is the Mississippi River Visitor Center at Lock and Dam 15. Ranger Ron Bardole will guide an inside tour of the lock and dam operation and then visit his outside Indian garden.

Tour B– Local Rain gardens and the Quad City Botanical Center

(Bus leaves at 8:15 am and returns by 11:30 am, \$20) Limit 53

This tour will feature the premier award-winning rain gardens in Rock Island according to the contest held by the Beautification Committee. The group will also make a stop at the rain garden the local Master Gardeners have been working on at the request of the Public Health department. A second stop will be to the stunning Quad City Botanical Center (described above.)

Lunch on your own. Between half-day tours, there is ample time to visit the shops and restaurants in the area. Maps and restaurant suggestions will be available.

Tour C– Vander Veer Park and Gardens at Butterworth & Deere Wyman Homes

(Bus leaves at 1:00 pm and returns by 4:30 pm, \$20) Limit 53

Vander Veer Botanical Park was established in 1885 and the 33 acre park includes lovely gardens with annuals & perennials. Stroll from the Conservatory, thru the rose garden, along the Grand Alee and into the Children's sculpture garden and Hosta glade. The Butterworth and Wyman homes feature hilltop estates with gardens hosting a large variety of unusual plantings.

Tour D–Blackhawk State Park and Gardens at Butterworth & Deere Wyman homes

(Bus leaves at 1:00 pm and returns by 4:30 pm, \$20) Limit 53

Your first stop will be to view the fall beauty of the Black Hawk Forest-one of the least disturbed forests in Illinois. You will view the tall grass prairie, established by school children in the 1980s, followed by a demonstration of fire equipment, weather permitting. View the Hauberg Indian Museum and learn about the local Sauk and Mesquakie Indians. Your last stops are the beautiful gardens at the Butterworth and Deere Wyman homes.

Educational Sessions

Friday September 8

10:30 am to Noon (A)

A1 Containers for Collectors- *Rita Randolph*

Rita satisfies the cravings of plant nerds with her collection of everlasting plant material. Come to this demo and see how Rita combines and partners foliage and flowers. All kinds of specialty plants and even ornamental edibles will be used in her creative and interesting containers.

A2 Possums Under the Porch- *Dr. Jim Pease*

This presentation will help you find solutions to those pesky wildlife problems in your yard, garden and home. Jim will take you through a basic approach to all wildlife problems and address several specific ones as examples.

A3- Asian Maples- *Dr. Gary Kling*

Spice up your plant life by supplementing our great native species with a few of the many beautiful Asian maples. Dazzling leaf colors and variegations, brilliant fall colors, interesting leaf shapes, a range of textures and attractive bark await your selection.

A4- Plant Problem Diagnosis:CSI Style -

Dr. Peggy Sellers

Delve into the world of plant problem diagnostics through the eyes of a plant pathologist. We will be reviewing case studies, gathering evidence and solving a murder using crime scene investigation methods that a plant detective would use.

A5- Leaf Casting Workshop- *Cecelia Obert*

Limit 15, Fee \$3

Learn how to make a leaf casting from concrete in this hands-on workshop. Leaf castings are great for fountains, patio tables and as garden art. Your leaf casting may be picked up on Saturday at 3 pm.

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm (B)

B1 Unusual Garden Structures- *Carol Reese*

Carol has had the opportunity to cruise (camera in hand) many fine gardens, both private & public. Her photographs have captured fanciful, ingenious or humorous hardscape features that make a garden truly special.

B2 Why Rain Gardens are Important-

Sue Cubberly

Rain gardens have as much to do with gardening as they do with water quality. Every garden has the ability to look beautiful and protect our waterways.

B3 Bats in Your Belfry? - *Dr. Jim Pease*

Winged animals about to drive you up a wall or out of your house? Come learn about these incredible creatures, why they have chosen your house and how to have them around without sharing your home with them.

B4 Evasive Invasives and Perennial Pests- *Dr. Susan Ratcliffe*

This workshop will discuss new and emerging insect issues, as well as many perennial pests. Environmentally friendly management techniques along with basic biology and life cycle information will be presented during the session.

B5 Birdhouses 101 Workshop—*Jim Stanley*

Limit 20, Fee \$7.50

Jim will lead you thru the process of making a slot bluebird house. The wood being used will be western red cedar with a rough finish- so be prepared to get splinters!

B6 Leaf Casting Workshop- *Cecelia Obert*

Limit 15, Fee \$3 Repeat of A5.

3:30 pm to 5:00 pm (C)

C1 Rita on the Road- *Rita Randolph*

Botanic Gardens, nurseries and greenhouses and all the best tips and plants Rita has found in her travels.

C2 Reduced Maintenance Trees & Shrubs- *Dr Gary Kling*

Maintenance needs should be a high priority when selecting tree and shrubs. With proper selection, you can find more time to enjoy your landscape and less time working for it. Selections will include underutilized and pest-resistant native and introduced species.

C3 Monarchs- *Ann Burns*

1800 miles is a long trip-especially when yours wings are as thin as paper and you weigh less than a dime. Learn about the amazing migration of monarchs and how citizen involvement in the tagging process helps scientists study monarch populations. Monarchs should be available so participants can actually release several during the session .

C4 Gardens of the NW Pacific- *Monica David*

Let Monica be your guide as she shows the brightest moments of the recent MG trip to public and private gardens in Seattle, Portland, Vancouver and Victoria.

C5 Birdhouses 101 Workshop—*Jim Stanley*

Limit 20, Fee \$7.50 Repeat of B5

Educational Sessions

Saturday September 9

8:30 am to 10:00 am (D)

D1 **How New Varieties are Chosen-** *Jim Nau*

Join Jim Nau as he discusses the trials and evaluation procedures used for new plants to be selected for marketing to the public.

D2 **Native Plants-** *Eric Ingels*

Native plants are underused and underappreciated in the home landscape. Join Eric as he explores the many reasons that native plants can be a better choice. Grow a little "wild" for a change.

D3 **Peony, Meeny, Miney, Mo... The Perfect Perennial?** – *Dave Wanninger*

Showy, durable, easy, adaptable...what's not to like about peonies? We will take a tour of the world of peonies and also talk about cultural practices.

D4 **Growing Gourmet Garlic-** *Chuck Voigt*

Learn some of the history and uses of garlic; then review the process of planting, growing, harvesting, storing and utilizing this pungent bulb.

D5 **Mushroom Logs Demo-** Steve Felts

Learn the art of inoculating and growing shiitake mushroom logs. Steve will discuss the types of wood to use and techniques for cultivation of these mushrooms.

10:30 am to Noon (E)

E1 **Narrow Places and Awkward Spaces-** Kathryn Newman

Narrow areas, sideyards and irregular outdoor spaces are often troublesome spots in the home landscape. Kathryn will share creative and practical design ideas for those awkward places to help you create new and attractive landscape spaces.

E2 **The Problem with Hostas-** *Tom Micheletti*

A general overview of Hosta culture and the pests and diseases associated with growing them.

E3 **Body Smart Gardening-** *Martha Smith*

Martha will discuss "how" we garden and provide some simple techniques to make gardening more enjoyable. Besides tool selection including the new ergonomic types, she will cover proper use of tools to minimize muscle strain while maximizing the tool's intended use, warm-up exercises, correct clothing to minimize health concerns, poisonous plants, and weather-related problems.

E4 **Home Greenhouses: Dream or Nightmare?** – *Denny Schrock*

Do you suffer from greenhouse envy? In this introductory level class, learn about different types of home greenhouses, the materials they're made of, equipment useful in operating them and how to manage growing plants in a greenhouse.

E5 **Tub Time Teas For Your Bath-**

Darcy Rosenbach Limit 20, Fee \$15

Herbs aren't just for cooking! Learn to combine your garden herbs, Epsom salts, essential oils and wonderful emollients to create wonderful bath time treats that can soothe or invigorate. Each participant will enjoy hands-on make and take, leaving class with a variety of full-sized products to enjoy at home.

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm (F)

F1 **Alluring Annuals and Promising Perennials-** *Ron and Donna Dieter*

Each year, Ron and Donna visit breeders, growers and trial gardens across the Midwest searching out new and unusual annuals and perennials for their greenhouse and nursery. They will show you new introductions, as well as some unusual and overlooked varieties that will add interest and excitement to your garden.

F2 **Therapeutic Gardening-**

Cindy Haynes & Susan Erickson

We all know gardening can be therapeutic on a personal level. Learn the design elements/concepts that make gardens therapeutic and the adaptive technologies which make your garden more enabling.

F3 **Sweet Scents of Success with Scented Geraniums-** *Chuck Voigt*

Scented Pelargoniums are the herb of the year for 2006. See, smell, and taste a small sampling of the hundreds of species and cultivars that are available. Learn how to select, grow, overwinter and use these diverse and beautiful plants.

F4 **Successful Rhododendrons & Azaleas for the Upper Midwest-** *Dave Wanninger*

This class will look at azaleas and rhododendrons that are totally hardy for Illinois gardeners. Dave will also discuss proper planting and other cultural practices to guarantee success.

F5 **Tub Time Teas For Your Bath-**

Darcy Rosenbach Limit 20, Fee \$15 Repeat of E5

Meet Our Conference Speakers....

Ann Burns- Ann is the Environmental Education Coordinator for Jackson County Conservation, Jackson County Iowa. She has been tagging monarchs since 1988 and has had some of "her" monarchs recovered in Mexico. She has introduced hundreds of students and others to monarch tagging thru school & public programs.

Sue Cubberly- After 20 years working in the computer and communications field, Sue chose to start the Rain Garden's network because she understood how important the issue is and how homeowner friendly the solution was. She uses her knowledge of native plant gardening, communications skills and most recently her hands-on experiences with the rivers, stream and lakes of Illinois.

Monica David- Monica is currently the Coordinator for the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener program She graduated from the U of I with an M.S. degree in Horticulture and has extensive experience working at the U of I Plant Clinic diagnosing plant disease problems.

Ron and Donna Dieter- Ron and Donna own and operate Sunnyfield Greenhouse & Gardens, just south of Kewanee, IL. They grow more than 2000 varieties of annuals and & perennials for retail sale. Sunnyfield has developed a reputation for imaginative combinations of annuals and perennials in baskets, pots and containers. Ron and Donna are charter members of the Perennial Plant Association and Ron is the treasurer. He is also a member of the International Hardy Plant Union, the IL. Nurseryman's Assoc. and the Garden Writers of America.

Susan Erickson- Susan was a registered landscape architect and outreach program coordinator for the College of Design at Iowa State University. She has a particular interest in the health benefits of contact with nature, which leads naturally to her studies of therapeutic gardens.

Steve Felts- Steve has been a soil scientist and Natural Resources Conservationist before becoming the district forester for NW Illinois. He has a B.S. degree in forestry from the U. of I. and is past president of the International Walnut Council.

Cindy Haynes- Dr Haynes is an assistant professor of horticulture at Iowa State. She conducts research in horticultural pedagogy and human issues. She has published numerous articles including her research on youth programming and perceptions of the volunteers at a public garden.

Eric Ingels- Eric is vice-president of the LaFayette Home Nursery, a firm recognized for its expertise on the preservation, restoration and development of prairie plant communities and other native vegetation. He is the active manager in charge of seed production and collection, a burn control specialist and installation contractor. Eric is a member of the American Association of Nurserymen and the National Landscape Association.

Gary Kling- Born and raised in Wisconsin, Dr. Kling received his BS and MS from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Following a 15 month extension appointment at Iowa State University, he moved to the U of I where he completed his Ph.D. Gary has been teaching courses in woody landscape plant identification for more than 20 years.

Tom Micheletti- Tom is the owner of the Hosta Patch Nursery (www.hostapatch.com); vice-president of the National Hosta Society; President of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society Board of Directors and a member of the American Hosta Growers Association.

Jim Nau- Jim is the Trials and Varieties Manager for Ball Seed Company and is an expert on annuals and perennials. He manages the growing, planting, and landscape design for all plants grown and evaluated in the Ball Seed trials in West Chicago, Illinois.

Kathryn Newman- Kathryn, of Sunnyfield Greenhouse and Gardens, provides landscape and garden design services, as well as horticultural consultations to business and residential clients. She graduated from the U. of I. with a B.S. in ornamental horticulture. She served internships at Longwood Gardens and Ball Horticulture Company. Kathryn then worked as an associate designer for R.H. Hursthouse and Associates, an award-winning design firm in Naperville, IL., before returning to the family business.

Cecelia Obert– Cecelia is married with three children and has been a Master Gardener for nine years. She owns and runs the very popular business- 'Gardening Angels'.

Jim Pease– Dr Jim Pease currently serves as Extension Wildlife Specialist in the Dept. of Natural Resource Ecology & Management at Iowa State University. He teaches courses in interpretation of natural resources, human dimensions of wildlife and international agriculture. He conducts research in the areas of environmental education, interpretation and human dimensions. He has considerable international experience with projects in Costa Rica, Brazil, Panama and Russia.

Rita Randolph– Rita is the owner of Randolph's Greenhouse in Jackson, TN., which has over 10 greenhouses of annuals, perennials, tropicals and aquatic plants. She was 2003/04 President of the Tennessee Flower Grower's Association, a member of Garden Writers Association, writes a regular column for the 'City News' of Jackson and has been featured in 'Greenhouse Grower' & 'GMPro' magazines.

Susan Ratcliffe– Dr Ratcliffe serves as Co-director of the USDA North Central Integrated Pest Management Center. She received a M.S. and Ph.D. in entomology from the U. of I. Susan has authored and edited numerous regional and national pest alerts addressing invasive species in cooperation with other governmental agencies.

Carol Reese– Carol received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Mississippi State, where she taught courses in landscape plants and design. Her speaking engagements have taken her all over the USA. She writes a gardening/nature column for the 'Jackson Sun' and the 'Tennessee Gardener Magazine' and is the host of 'Earth Tones: Nature Friendly Gardening', a regional TV show. She is currently an extension agent for the University of Tennessee.

Darcy Rostenbach– Darcy is the owner of Full Circle Handcrafted Soaps, which has been in operation for a decade in the Quad cities, offering handcrafted soaps, lotions and other treats for the skin. Darcy is a member of the Handcrafted Soap Makers Guild and is presently serving as the president of the Mississippi Valley Grower's Association's Farmers' Markets. She is also on the board of directors for the Buy Fresh, Buy Local non-profit group.

Denny Schrock– Denny is editor of gardening books for Meredith books (Better Homes and Gardens). Some of you may remember him from his days in Illinois as the state Master Gardener Coordinator. He has had a home greenhouse at four different locations and built his latest edition this past year.

Peggy Sellers– Dr. Peggy Sellers is the Master Gardener State Coordinator for Indiana & formerly the director of Purdue's Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab. Peggy has delivered numerous presentations and workshops and enjoys "Helping Others Learn to Grow".

Martha Smith– Martha is responsible for horticulture programming for 16 counties in western Illinois where she is a U. of I. Extension educator. Prior to joining Extension she worked as a nursery manager, landscape designer & Horticultural broker as well as working for Cornell Extension. A well-loved speaker to the public & Master Gardeners alike, she also advises commercial growers.

Jim Stanley– Jim completed his Master Gardener training in 2004 & runs his own business– Blue Ribbon Farms. Jim says that "Keeping birds around the garden helps control pests and their song and colors can brighten any cloudy day."

Chuck Voigt– Chuck is an academic professional with the Dept of NRES where he conducts research on the culture & management of vegetable & herb crops as well as teaching a home Hort course for non-majors. Chuck initiated the popular annual Herb Day, which had over 300 attendees in 2004. He has authored or edited 3 books and is the current chair of the International Herb Association.

Dave Wanninger– Dave is the chief horticulturist at Beaver Creek Nursery, a wholesale nursery located northeast of Rockford. Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm is the retail mail order/internet sister company of Beaver Creek Nursery. Dave previously operated a landscaping company & was the nursery manager at a large independent garden center. He is an instructor in the Hort & Landscaping program at Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville, WI.

Accommodations

Registrants are responsible for their own hotel reservations. The designated conference hotel is the Radisson on John Deere Commons (309-764-1000). A block of rooms has been reserved at this hotel at a special conference rate of \$81.00 for a standard room and \$91 for a one bedroom suite. **Reserve your room by August 16, 2006** to assure availability at the conference rate. A few rooms are also being held at the Stoney Creek Inn (309-743-0101) which is only a 5 minute walk from The Mark. Deluxe and Standard Queen rates are \$79. **Reserve your room by August 7, 2006** to assure the conference rate. Check in time at both hotels is 3 pm. A luggage storage area will be available if you arrive before check-in time. Both hotels serve a free continental breakfast.

Meals

The conference registration fee includes the Friday evening awards banquet 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). Please select your entrée for the Friday night banquet– either tenderloin or herb-crusted salmon. There will be a separate charge for the dinner cruise on Thursday evening.

Thursday Dinner Cruise

Join fellow attendees on a dinner cruise on Thursday evening September 7. Shuttle buses will be available to transport you to and from The Mark to the Celebration Belle dock. However, the dock is only about 2 miles from The Mark and ample parking is available if you care to drive yourself. The cruise begins boarding at 6:00 pm; leaves at 6:30 pm and returns at 9 pm. The cost is \$38/person and includes: shuttle to and from The Mark, a buffet dinner, 2 1/2 hour tour of the Mississippi river and locks, live entertainment, tax and gratuity. The boat has 2 enclosed dining decks, five bars, an observation deck and a gift shop.

Registration

Conference enrollment is open to Master Gardeners & one adult guest. Each attendee must complete their own registration form. **Early Bird Registration deadline is August 11, 2006.** The registration fee of \$115 includes all classes, handouts, two lunches and the Friday night banquet. Workshop fees and the river cruise are additional. Tours cost \$20 for a half day trip and \$40 for the all-day tour. Single day registrations are available for \$100 for Friday (includes all classes & meals scheduled for that day) and \$75 for Saturday. Late registrations will be accepted until August 23 at an additional \$10 fee. **No registrations will be accepted after August 23.** 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 August 23 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 1.

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 Mark will be sent in late August.



2006 Illinois Master Gardener Conference

September 7-9

The Mark of the Quad Cities

Moline, IL.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit/County _____ Telephone _____ e-mail _____

TOURS—Indicate your choices.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7

All Day Tour

___ Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Garden \$40– includes lunch (Limit 105)

Morning Tours

___ Tour A: QC Botanical Center & Mississippi River Visitor Center \$20 (Limit 53)

___ Tour B: Local Rain Gardens & QC Botanical Center \$20 (Limit 53)

Afternoon Tours

___ Tour C: Vander Veer Park & Gardens at Butterworth & Deere Wyman Homes \$20 (Limit 53)

___ Tour D: Blackhawk State Park & Gardens at Butterworth & Deere Wyman Homes \$20 (Limit 53)

CONCURRENT CLASSES- Indicate your first, second and third choice for each time slot.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

10:30 a.m.-Noon

- ___ Containers for Collectors
- ___ Possums Under the Porch
- ___ Tantalizing Asian Maples
- ___ Plant Problem Diagnosis:CSI Style
- ___ Leaf Casting Workshop –Limit 15, Fee \$3

1:30—3:00 p.m.

- ___ Unusual Garden Structures
- ___ Rain Gardens
- ___ Bats in Your Belfry?
- ___ Evasive Invasives & Perennial Pests
- ___ Birdhouses 101 Workshop-Limit 20, Fee \$7.50
- ___ Leaf Castings Workshop-Limit 15, Fee \$3

3:30 –5:00 p.m.

- ___ Rita on the Road
- ___ Reduced Maintenance Trees & Shrubs
- ___ Monarchs
- ___ Gardens of the NW Pacific
- ___ Birdhouses 101 Workshop-Limit 20, Fee \$7.50

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9

8:30-10:00 a.m.

- How New Varieties are Chosen
- Native Plants
- Peonies
- Growing Gourmet Garlic
- Mushroom Log Demo

10:30a.m.-Noon

- Narrow Places & Awkward Spaces
- The Problem with Hostas
- Body Smart Gardening
- Home Greenhouses
- Tub Time Teas for Your Bath Limit 20, Fee \$15

1:30-3:00 p.m.

- Annuals & Perennials
- Therapeutic Gardening
- Scented Geraniums
- Rhododendrons & Azaleas
- Tub Time Teas for Your Bath Limit 20, Fee \$15

MEALS: (Indicate which meals you will attend)

- Thursday Night Dinner Cruise
- Friday Lunch
- Friday Night Awards Banquet
 - Beef tenderloin
 - Herb-crusted Salmon
- Saturday Lunch
- I request vegetarian meals.

Fees

<p>Early Bird Conference Registration Fee: \$115 ** postmarked by Aug 11 (Includes all classes, handouts, Friday lunch and awards banquet, Saturday lunch)</p>	
<p>Full Registration Fee \$125 *** postmarked August 12-August 23 (Includes all classes, handouts, Friday lunch and awards banquet, Saturday lunch)</p>	
<p>Single Day Registrations: (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Friday \$100 (includes classes, handouts, Friday lunch and awards banquet) <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday \$75 (includes classes, handouts, Saturday lunch)</p>	
<p>Tours <input type="checkbox"/> All day tour \$40 <input type="checkbox"/> Morning tour \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> Afternoon tour-\$20</p>	
<p>Celebration River Cruise and Dinner \$38</p>	
<p>Additional Workshop Fees (Check appropriate boxes): <input type="checkbox"/> Leaf Castings \$3 <input type="checkbox"/> Birdhouses \$7.50 <input type="checkbox"/> Tub Time Teas \$15</p>	
<p>Friday Awards Banquet <u>only</u> @\$25</p>	
<p>Friday Awards Banquet <u>guests</u> @\$25 each_____ Names_____</p>	
<p>Bamboo green T-shirt with dark green conference logo @\$10 T-shirts must be pre-ordered. Late registrants cannot pre-order shirts. Indicate quantity. S____M____L____XL____2XL____3XL____</p>	
<p>Total Enclosed</p>	

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 11. Late registration from August 12-August 23 costs an additional \$10. No registrations accepted after August 23. No refunds issued after August 23.

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

Spotlight on Kane County Master Gardeners

So much is happening in Kane County! With sixty-three active Master Gardeners, our impact within Kane County continues to spread like the roots of a well-tended tree. This once rural county, located in northern Illinois, is in a period of transition. The rolling and fertile farmlands of Kane County are now peppered with the by-products of urban development; including homes, shopping malls, highways and byways. As our communities change, thus our Extension Service continues to adapt to accommodate this urban sprawl.

Many Master Gardeners continue to volunteer in our well-established programs: horticultural therapy, community outreach, the farmer's market, the Hort Help Desk, Fabyan Japanese Gardens, community gardens and children's programs.

Our efforts at educating children have increased thanks to Master Gardener, Sue Gould, who has lead the way. Master Gardeners have worked within our school system as well as with the local scouting programs. The plant "petting garden" offers fun, and education, for little sprouts!

New and exciting programs are in the works under Sue's direction. This summer libraries in Elgin are featuring an "Island Tropical" theme to their summer reading programs. With this theme in mind, an activity highlighting bamboo has been developed. Master Gardeners will teach children about this grass: how it grows and where it grows. The children will be taught the many uses of bamboo, old and new. Did you know that fine linens made of bamboo are now available in many stores? Other bamboo products will be available for the children to see and touch. Finally, our young clients will construct a bamboo wind chime as part of this class.

A delightful puppet show, "The Travels of Mary Maple Seed", will help children to understand how seeds are dispersed. This versatile program can be adapted to children of all ages.

In the works: Vermiculture! Fun Fall Worm Farms!

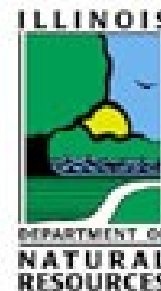
As Master Gardeners come, and grow, we are a proud force within Kane County. Under the leadership of our Horticultural Educator, Barbara Bates, we take pride in

eing good at what we do. We continue to build our program, to make our community aware of that which Extension offers, and to make our little part of this world a better place for all of its citizens.

Catherine Harrington, Kane County Master Gardener

IDNR Offers Resources to Educators

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources offers educational materials, programs, workshops, curriculum "trunks", grant opportunities and much more that are available to assist with your programming efforts, especially your projects with children.



Educational materials include free posters on Illinois birds, trees, fall colors, insects and animals. CD-roms and DVDs with lessons, background information, video and audio tapes as well as other activity books are available for Illinois teachers and educators. Topic areas are biodiversity, birds, trees, mammals and Exploring Illinois Natural Resources. Lending "trunks" are large plastic containers filled with field guides, posters, samples, and activities to enhance lessons. Four trunks (Illinois Fossils; Trees; Wild Mammals and People and Animals from Illinois' Past) are currently available for loan at various locations. A 2-week loan period is suggested.

The Illinois Entice program provides natural resources training for educators through hands-on, interdisciplinary workshops led by natural resources professionals. IDNR also supports national environmental education programs such as Project WILD, Project Wild Aquatic, Project Wet and Project Learning Tree. These national projects target kids kindergarten thru 12th grade. Activity guides for these programs are available by attending a local workshop.

The IDNR also sponsors the Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant Program. The program is available to Illinois schools, nature centers and youth groups. The maximum grant is \$600 and applications are due by October 1. Master Gardeners should contact their local Coordinator and County Director before pursuing these grants. For more information about IDNR educational resources check the website at <http://dnr.state.il.us>

Important Dates

July 27-29: National Children and Youth Gardening Symposium, St. Louis, Missouri. Register at http://www.ahs.org/youth_gardening/national_youth_garden_symposium.htm

July 29-30: A Walk in the Garden, Savanna, IL. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Garden tour and programs sponsored by the Carroll County Master Gardeners. The tour starts at the Savanna City Hall– Fire Station Parking Lot. There will also be talks by Master Gardeners, a plant sale, a farmers market, children’s programs and an arts co-op that run over three days– July 28-30. The tour and programs are free but donations will be accepted to benefit the Carroll County Master Gardeners. For more information– www.landofzoll.com/walkinthegarden.htm or 815-273-3964.

Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners’ Information,
News and Education

Edited by

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



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