



Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,
News and Education

Vol. 8 No. 1
Jan.-Feb. 2007

Coordinators' Comments

I must confess I am a travel addict. I come by it naturally, however, as both my parents were travel addicts. I have wonderful memories of my parents loading myself and my two sisters into our "eyebrow" Chevy and heading for tourist destinations around the United States. When I met my husband—sure enough he was a travel addict so we were destined to be together. For almost 29 years, our travels have brought us to gardens and natural areas all over the country.

Last year, I was privileged to meet Robyn Gulstrom from Travel House Tours and we conducted our first Master Gardener tour to the Northwest Pacific. I was elated because now I could share my travel bug with my favorite garden enthusiasts—Master Gardeners. Our trip to Portland, Seattle, Vancouver & Victoria was wonderful—great people, excellent gardens. The upcoming trip to Italy in May 2007 is full and I am excited to be able to share the gardens of Italy with Master Gardeners.

I am now pleased to announce that I will be offering a Horticulture trip to Costa Rica. (see the article later in this newsletter). This trip was put together by Mary Kroening, Missouri Master Gardener Coordinator, who has over 12 years experience leading tours to Costa Rica thru her travel agency Hidden Treasures.

I hope to plan more garden trips for Illinois Master Gardeners. To make the trips more affordable and more available—I hope to plan domestic ones as well as trips abroad. I need your help with suggestions on where you would like to travel. The trips could be short ones in the Midwest, longer trips to other areas of the country or international trips. Please email me your suggestions and we will work on them.

I have found a series of books for travel addicts such as myself. I love the series entitled—“The Garden Lovers Guide to....” which are available thru amazon.com You can buy guides for the Midwest or faraway places such as Spain or England. These would make wonderful reading for those cold dreary winter days! Happy New Year to all! ✍️ Monica David

Himalayan Blue Poppies (Meconopsis) to be shown at the University of Illinois Plant Biology Conservatory

Once again the conservatory will welcome Spring with a flush of Himalayan Blue Poppies (Meconopsis 'Lingholm'). The Himalayan blue poppy is a gardener's fantasy. Very few garden flowers equal the beauty of the blue poppy. What makes this flower a gardener's fantasy is that it can only be grown in a few parts of the world. So, for the gardener in Central Illinois, Illinois or even most of the United States, it remains an elusive dream. Only the lucky gardeners of Alaska or the Northwest Pacific, where the temperatures are cool and there is plenty of moisture, are fortunate enough to grow these poppies in their gardens.



Where: University of IL. Plant Biology Conservatory
1201 S. Dornier Dr., Urbana, IL

When: Dates to be announced. Watch for it on our web page: www.life.uiuc.edu/plantbio/greenhouse

Admission: \$5.00

For additional information, you can contact the Plant Biology Greenhouse Office at 217/333-7857 or

black3@uiuc.edu

For directions our webpage is: www.life.uiuc.edu/plantbio/greenhouse

MG Apparel Available Soon

Check the March-April issue of Imagine for information about ordering Master Gardener apparel. A color photo sheet and order blank will be included with the newsletter and will be sent to training sites for distribution to the trainees.

Important Dates

January 17-19: Mid-Am Trade Show and Mid Winter Conference, McCormick Place, Chicago, IL. Speaker list highlighted by Stephanie Cohen, Jim Nau and Jeff Epping. Class topics include Potted Perennials, Overlooked and Underused Plants, Design Trends, Tried and True and New Plants Too. For a complete schedule visit the website at www.midam.org

January 20: Herb Day, Urbana Holiday Inn. 217-333-7738.

January 20: 4th Annual Gardening Show, Washington Township Middle School, 381 East State Road 2, Valparaiso, Indiana. The keynote speaker will be Mike Nowak, host of Chicago's WGN radio, "Let's Talk Gardening". Two demonstrations will be offered- "What it Takes to Build a Garden" by James Hitz, Talltree Arboretum & Gardens and "Cooking with Herbs" by Chef John Rooney of *The Culinary Connection*. This gardening show will also include a seed & bulb exchange; photography contest; juried flower show and exhibitors of all things gardening. Admission is \$5. A lodging package is available at the nearby Fairfield Inn. Look for updates and contest guidelines at <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/Porter>

January 23,24: Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School, Gateway Center, Collinsville, IL. 618-650-7050.

January 27: Winter Horticulture Workshop, Geneseo Community Center, 541 East North Street, 8:30 – 11:45 am. The program, organized by University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners of Henry, Stark and Rock Island, includes three programs by local experts on Garden Art, Container Gardens and Raised Garden Beds. The cost is just \$10 per person and includes continental breakfast. To register, call either: Henry County Extension at (309) 309-853-1533 and online at www.extension.uiuc.edu/henry or Rock Island County Extension at (309) 796-0512 and online at www.extension.uiuc.edu/rockisland

January 27: A Winter Day in the Garden, Zwermann Theatre, Lincoln Trail College, Robinson, IL. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Doors open at 8 a.m. Keynote speaker is Erica Glasener, host of "A Gardeners Diary" on HGTV. Other sessions include- Garden Writing, Black & Purple Plants and Creating Garden Rooms by Becke Davis; Butterflies by Judy Burris and Wayne Richards; Low Maintenance Perennials by Dave Wanninger.

Registration fee is \$35 and includes coffee/snacks and lunch. Late registration fee \$40 after Jan. 12th. Sponsored by the Crawford County Master Gardeners & LTC. 618-546-1549.

February 1: The Great Garden Debate, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL. *Horticulture* magazine has invited Nan Blake Sinton, Joe Eck, Mat Reese, Wayne Winterrowd and Carol Reese to present their cases in the great debate between plant collectors and designers. \$119 for CBG members and *Horticulture* subscribers, \$129 regular rate. Visit www.hortmag.com or call 877-436-7764

February 6: Southern Illinois Tree Fruit School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. 618-692-9434.

February 7: Southwestern Illinois Tree Fruit School, Hardin, IL. 618-692-9434.

February 9-10: 19th Midwestern Herb and Garden Show Times Square Mall, Mt. Vernon, IL. Keynote speaker is Mel Bartholomew, founder of *Square Foot Gardening*. A choice of 17 breakout sessions including Orchids, Irises, Gourds, The Savage Gardeners, Weeds, Bulbs, Topiaries and more. Vendors will be present. Sponsored by the Herbs for Health and Fun Club. For more information visit www.midwesternherbandgardenshow.com

February 15: Southern Illinois Vegetable Grower's School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. 618-692-9434.

February 17: Joys of Gardening, Highland Community College Conference Center, Freeport, IL. A variety of classes and workshops ranging from garden stepping stones to birdhouse gourds will be offered from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The \$25 fee includes the keynote speaker, Dave Wanninger of Bear Creek Nursery, lunch, and four breakout sessions. The fee will be \$30 for those who register after February 9. Sponsored by Stephenson County Master Gardeners. Call 815-235-4125 for a brochure.

February 18: Know & Grow, Naaman Diehl Auditorium in Mount Carroll, 1 to 5 p.m. The afternoon will include six break-out sessions as well as a break for light snacks and drinks. Planned topics include Ornamental Grasses, Late Spring Wildflowers, Vermicomposting, Seven Deadly Sins Home Landscapers Make, Seed Saving and Tropical Plants. Cost is \$10. Pre-registration is requested. Sponsored by the Carroll County Master Gardeners. For details contact 815-244-9444.

Important Dates (cont.)

February 18: Nursery School-Lessons in Gardening, The Mark of the Quad Cities, Moline, IL. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 18 stimulating classes for all levels include topics such as Orchids, Garden Art, Prairie Gardens, Heirloom Vegetables, Asian Maples, Rain Gardens, Greenhouses, Soap Making and much more! During breaks and lunch, Nursery School students can visit booths by dozens of vendors selling horticulture related items including crafts, gifts, books, seeds and plants. Lunch and most class materials are included in the \$40 registration fee. [Register online](#) after January 1st. <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/rockisland/> or call (309) 796-0512. Registration deadline is February 17. Sponsored by the Rock Island County Master Gardeners.

February 25: Macoupin & Montgomery Gardeners Day, Lincoln Land Community College Southern Region Center, Litchfield, IL. 8:15 to Noon. Regionally known keynote speaker will be Dianne Noland. Participants will also be able to attend 2 –60 minute classes. Participants can attend one of the following: Body Smart Gardening; Healthy Garden Soils; Herbs; Indoor Gardening, Composting and Container Gardening. Those interested in attending should contact the Macoupin County Extension office at (217) 854-9604 to register.

February 24: Gardener's Pathway Workshop, Kishwaukee College, DeKalb, IL. One day workshop focusing on new ideas in gardening, new plants, plus a fresh look at some older gardening ideas as well. With breakout sessions on 18 different topics, there is something for everyone in this idea packed program. The day begins at Kishwaukee College with check-in and continental breakfast at 7:30 am followed by keynote speaker Jim Nau from Ball Horticultural Company at 8:30 a.m. Session 1 will begin at 9:30 a.m. Lunch, exhibit hall, raffle will add to the day's enjoyment. Cost is \$45.00 lunch included. Contact Kris Stefani – Director of Community Education at 815-825-2086 ext 375 or e-mail: stefani@kishwaukeecollege.edu or Ron Johnson at 815-758-8194 or e-mail rjsyc@uiuc.edu. Sponsored by DeKalb County Master Gardeners.

February 27-28: Pro-Hort Symposium, Ashland House, Morton, IL. Class topics include: Gardening Passion; Prairie-Style Landscape Design; New Montrovia Plant Program; Perennials Landscape Design and Native Plant Maintenance. Contact Pro- Hort for more information 888-525-3900 or www.prohort.org

February 27-28: Illinois Small Fruit & Strawberry School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. 618-695-2444.

March 2-3: Garden Day 2007, Holiday Inn and Conference Center, Urbana, IL. This biannual event features nationally recognized speakers Stephanie Cohen, Roy Diblick and Janet Machunovich. Sponsored by the Campaign County Master Gardeners. 217-333-7672.

March 3: St. Louis Gardening Symposium, St. Louis Community College, Kirkwood, MO. Program highlighted by speakers Dan Heims, Paul Cappiello and Richard Hartlage. Breakout sessions, garden demos and vendors. www.hortco-op.org

March 3: Gardening for Food and Fun, Rock Valley College, Rockford, IL. This all day event offers demonstrations, workshops and lectures on 30 different exciting garden related subjects. Sponsored by the Winnebago County Master Gardeners. 815-986-4357.

March 3: Gardener's Palette, John Wood Community College, Quincy, IL. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Carol Reese from Tennessee Extension will present the keynote address "The Wilder Side of Gardening". Attendees may select from 12 different breakout sessions including– Heirloom Tomatoes; Raised Beds and Compost Piles; Landscaping with Perennials; Coleus Move into the Light; All About Growing Herbs; Local Flavors:Herb Butters and Breads; Rain Gardens and more. Sponsored by the Adams-Brown Master Gardeners. Call 217-223-8380 or check the website at www.extension.uiuc.edu/adams

March 10: Home, Lawn and Garden Day, Central Catholic High School, 1201 Airport Rd., Bloomington, IL. Sandy Mason, Hort educator, will present the keynote address and Don Schmidt, the "Dean of Green" from the Illinois State Biology Department will deliver the closing remarks. Attendees will select two 45-minute lecture and one 75– minute "hands-on" session. Vendors will also be present. The \$40 fee covers breakfast beverages, lunch, educational materials and door prizes. Sponsored by the Mclean County Master Gardeners. www.mcleanextension.org or 309-663-8306.

March 10– 18th: Indiana Flower and Patio Show, Indiana State Fairgrounds, West Pavilion and Expo Hall, 1202 E 38th St. Indianapolis, IN. More than 25 gardens based on the theme- "Gardens Gone Wild". 450 exhibitors and vendors. The show also features about 10 garden seminars each day. General admission is \$10. 317-576-9933 or www.hsishows.com/indiana_flower_patio

Important Dates (cont.)

March 10: Ready, Set, Grow--Gardening 2007, Sauk Valley Community College, 173 Il. Rt. 2, Dixon, IL. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sponsored by the Lee, Ogle and Whiteside County Master Gardeners. Contact Vicki Broos at 815-732-2191 or broos@uiuc.edu to receive a brochure.

March 10: Weekend Gardener, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. A full educational day of seminars including A Tale of Two Gardens; Body Smart Gardening; The Right Perennial; Ready, Set, Go for Home Lawn; Captivating Containers; Composting, Herb and Garden Design; Water Gardening; Native Gardening and more. Fee \$30 includes lunch. Sponsored by the Madison-St. Clair Master Gardeners. 618-650-7050.

March 12: Seven Week Spring Home Horticulture Series. The programs begin March 12 and continue for 7 consecutive Monday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. Topics include Plant Q & A; Turf; Japanese Gardens & Bonsai; Perennial Garden Design; Garden Art; Year-Round Garden Design; Birds and Blooms and Natural Pesticides. Cost is \$2 for Master Gardeners. Sponsored by the Rock Island Master Gardeners. To register, call 309-796-0512.

March 17: McDonough County Gardener's Day, Western Illinois University Student Union, Macomb, IL. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$30. Lots of educational sessions and vendors. Sponsored by the McDonough County Master Gardeners. 309-837-3939.

March 24: Gardener's Big Day, Spoon River College's Canton Campus, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The day begins with a keynote speaker which will be followed by several breakout sessions. Vendor displays and door prizes included. Fee is \$22 and includes lunch. Sponsored by the Fulton County Master Gardeners, Spoon River College and the Spoon River Garden Club. 309-547-3711.

March 24: Potpourri of Gardening, Lutheran School Association, 2001 E. Mound Rd., Decatur, IL. A broad range of topics covered by local and regional specialists includes: Effective Use of Microclimates in the Garden; Earth Boxes; Home Vegetable Gardening; Attracting Wildlife to the Urban Garden and several more. Participants will be able to attend three 45-minute sessions. Cost is \$10 or \$12 at the door. Sponsored by the Macon County Master Gardeners. 217-877-6042

March 31: Dig into Spring, Sponsored by the Knox County Master Gardeners. 309-342-5108.

April 11: Annual Spring Garden Seminar, Celebrations 150 Banquet Hall, Utica, IL. Sessions include: Colorful Shrubs & Small Trees for the 4 Seasons; Deciduous Tree Diseases; Soil & Rain Gardens and Complete Container Gardens. Cost is \$25. Sponsored by the LaSalle County Master Gardeners. 815-433-0707.

April 12: Annual Garden Seminar, Edgar County 4-H Fairgrounds, Paris, IL. Sponsored by the Edgar County Master Gardeners. 217-465-8585.

May 2-5: International Master Gardener Conference, Peabody Hotel, Little Rock, Arkansas. Final registration deadline is April 1, 2007. <http://mg2007.uaex.edu>

September 6-8: Illinois Master Gardener Conference, Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL.

For other approved classes visit these websites:

Morton Arboretum– www.mortonarb.org

Chicago Botanic Garden– www.chicago-botanic.org

Missouri Botanical Garden– www.mobot.org

Deadline for submission of articles for the next issue is February 15, 2007.

Costa Rica Horticulture Tour

Join Illinois Master Gardener Coordinator Monica David and your Costa Rican Botanist on this 10 day study trip as we leave the typical tourist route behind and head south from San Jose to visit private gardens, agricultural production locations and various native habitats from cloud forest to dry tropical rainforest. Although the focus will be plants– tropical flowers, medicinal plants, trees and fruits– all aspects of the natural environment will be addressed. Some highlights include Wilson's Botanical Garden, CATIE (Tropical Agriculture research and Higher Education Center) and the private gardens of Mrs. Ileana Tehran. Ms. Tehran is founder of SACRO (Save Costa Rica's Orchids) and her garden is considered the most enchanting private garden in the country. We will spend 2 nights at the Austrian-owned Esquinas Lodge where we will visit tropical forests and tour eco-friendly fruit plantations. The trip concludes with a two-night stay on the Pacific Coast in a private lodge with a National Preserve surrounding the beach. A tentative cost of \$3,195 will include airfare (from O'Hare Airport), all meals, lodging and tours. The trip runs January 21st to January 31st, 2008. A complete itinerary and brochure will be available in late January 2007.

Chairperson's Chat

A few Words on Wasting Time from Barbara Bates

Every now and again in the course of casual reading I come across a passage that is well crafted and ripe with meaning. You may have been tickled by just such a passage in the summer issue of *Fine Gardening*. In that issue, Jeff Taylor stated that "my younger days were more a matter of motion than progress. But I feel it was wasted time well spent." I find myself grinning at the phrase "wasted time well spent". That concept loosely fits some aspects of gardening. For instance, we gardeners spend hours and dollars cramming annual color into containers only to have to water, primp, and deadhead all summer. Then we dump them after frost and start over with mums, kale and pansies. And now in the gray days of winter when our yearning for bright color is the most intense, many of our containers sit lifeless, competing for space in the garage or storage shed. The more energetic among us adorn our containers with greens and twigs as if they were giant outdoor vases.

More "wasted time" is represented by swaths of annuals, brimming with flats and flats of pink, yellow and blue that we race to plant every spring in window boxes, accent beds and cheery borders. Wonderful while they last, but too soon a memory. While they thrive we smile; we inhale; and we marvel at the visits from butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. When they are gone we dream of summer and warm places far away.

I am only slightly better when it comes to perennials. The plants return, but I spend days rearranging them to create more pleasing plant combinations or better visual displays. Many of them never really become established, but they enjoy a view from nearly every angle. Lots of motion, but questionable progress.

That is the story and the glory of seasonal blooms in a temperate climate. All too soon they are gone, but it is wasted time very well spent. I encourage each of you to try it. Get your friends to join you, the more the merrier!

A Little Bacterium, A Huge Concern

In an effort to protect fresh produce from *E. coli* & other harmful bacteria, scientists are working to develop an edible, all-natural, antimicrobial vegetable-based film that creates an additional layer of protection when applied to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Epidemiological studies suggest *E. coli* O157:H7 sickens approximately 100,000 people each year with more than 100 fatalities, leaving the food processing industry in a continuous struggle to control the spread of pathogenic bacteria. In recent months, news stories linking *E. coli* to fresh produce have caused national concern.

Funded by USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, Dr. Tara H. McHugh, a food technologist, along with fellow researchers at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Albany, Calif., is researching the effectiveness of using plant essential oils in developing the vegetable-based film. Plants already produce & secrete essential oils to protect against attacks from insects and microbes; the layer of film adds an additional layer of protection.

Essential oils from three plants, oregano, lemongrass & cinnamon, were applied to an apple-based film. The antimicrobial efficacy of each film was tested by determining its ability to destroy *E. coli* O157:H7. Oil of oregano proved to be the most potent antimicrobial agent. At a concentration of only 0.1 percent, the oregano oil was capable of killing more than 50 percent of the *E. coli* sample in the first three minutes. In contrast, higher concentrations of lemongrass & cinnamon essential oils were necessary to achieve the same antibacterial activity. The vegetable-based films also acted as an oxygen barrier providing additional preservative benefits to fresh-cut produce.

Unlike fruit wraps that are sold in supermarkets, vegetable-based films are thin, dry and flexible. In addition, these products are all natural, containing at least 85 percent fruit or vegetable content. This study is the beginning of a 3-year project that will screen herbal oils and extracts from tea, grape and plums to further evaluate their antimicrobial potential. Scientists will also explore the antimicrobial activity of these vegetable-based films against additional pathogens, such as *Salmonella*, *Listeria* & *Bacillus cereus*. Research results will then be applied to protecting meat products.

These findings were presented in the Nov. 29, 2006, issue of *American Chemical Society's Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*.

Spotlight on Jefferson County Master Gardeners

- Last February we joined Washington County Master Gardeners and spent many hours working the information booth at the 18th Annual Midwestern Herb and Garden Show Feb.10-12, 2006.
- Master Gardeners manned a help booth at Anchor and Garden Center
- One Master Gardener organized a Garden & Water Garden tour to help support a local charity. Some of our Masters Gardener's gardens were on the tour.
- Several Master Gardeners' helped to organize a gardening group at an assisted living center (Green Tree). They took residents on tours to garden centers, a mum farm, etc. They assisted them in planting a "Square Foot Garden" in raised boxes.
- Ten Master Gardener's became involved with the County Extension Director, Myrtle De Loach and Jefferson County Housing ROSS Grant Project. We assembled 100 plus container planting boxes, showed participants how to plant, take care of plants and how to harvest the vegetables and flowers. We tried to emphasize vegetable gardening and showed them how in a small area many plants could be grown. (Square Foot Method) In a 12 x 24 box we grew a tomato, green pepper, some onions, radishes and lettuce. They really enjoyed the fresh vegetables. We hope to continue this in the coming year and expand on the project.
- The local herb club had a display garden at City Park. We picked up where they left off and re-established the beds. One bed was rescued flowers from an elderly lady that was forced to remove her flowers due to housing regulations. Now she can enjoy her plants at the park.
- A couple of our Master Gardeners live in an adjacent county and they helped another assisted living center (Autumn Leaves) with container gardening, so residents could enjoy plants from their past.
- We have a local Animal Rehab Center (Hickory Shadows Exotic Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Facility) that we help when available with plantings to make it more pleasing to the public.
- The Mt. Vernon Downtown Development group contacted us to help them spruce up their downtown location. Master Gardener Sarah Lee used her expertise with computer programs to design them a pleasing

planting design. We received front page coverage in the newspaper.

- August found our Sarah Lee being chosen Outstanding Master Gardener for Illinois.
- Theresa Greene has a small son and she organized a Junior Master Gardener group for him and his six friends. They have completed many projects, one of which is constructing a "Spook Walk" this fall. The group received newspaper coverage in two newspapers and people from up to thirty miles away come to see what they had done. They helped small children to decorate pumpkins, gave out treat bags and took folks on the tour.
- Several Master Gardeners were asked to judge 4-H Projects and we gladly accepted.
- The Local Sweet Corn and Watermelon Festival asked us to judge sweet corn and watermelons grown locally. We have been asked back and next year will expand the project and have more categories.

Lastly we try to keep the office landscape appealing to the public. This year we removed some overgrown bushes and planted annual and perennials. More plans for the future.

 Treasa Brookman, Master Gardener Coordinator

New Organic Apple Resistant to Scab

University of Illinois plant geneticist Schuyler Korban collaborated with researchers at Purdue and Rutgers universities to develop a new organic apple named Juliet that is resistant to apple scab. "Because the original seedling was selected here, U. of I. holds the licensing rights to the variety," says Korban. Juliet is being marketed as an organic and it would need to be grown by certified organic growers.

The apple showed so much potential that a French company created a cartoon character and advertising campaign to market it in Europe. See www.pomme-juliet.com for more information.

Juliet, a late-season apple, carries the Vf gene that provides a high level of resistance to apple scab and has also shown resistance to powdery mildew and fire blight as well. Juliet is about 85 % red with some green undercolor and although it has less sugar than Fuji it has a balance of sugar and acid and therefore is considered full flavored. The apples also stay on the tree for a longer time without dropping and can be kept in cold storage for 6-7 months.

IDNR Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant Program Funds Twelve Outdoor Classroom Projects

Hundreds of Illinois students will have the opportunity to work on improving natural habitats outside the classroom while supporting their studies thanks to grants from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Education's Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant program. Twelve organizations are receiving a total of \$5,845.46 in funds to support outdoor classrooms, prairie plots and butterfly gardens that students will develop and use for natural resources research.

Funding for the Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant program is provided through a donation by the Jadel Family Foundation and is administered by the Illinois Conservation Foundation. Applications for the program are accepted annually and must be postmarked by Oct. 15. Instructions and an application form may be downloaded from the IDNR web site at <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>. A maximum award of \$600 per successful applicant is available.

"It is our goal to have a Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant Program project developed in every county of the state and eventually at every school," IDNR Director Sam Flood added. "Using these habitat areas can support the Illinois Learning Standards in a variety of subject areas."

2006 Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant Awards

Adams County

Baldwin Intermediate School, Quincy. Grades: 4-6. Project: Transform a school courtyard into a living laboratory for Illinois biodiversity. Grant Award: \$519.00.

Clark County

Martinsville Elementary School, Martinsville. Grades: K-12. Project: Establish an outdoor classroom. Grant Award: \$231.00.

Cook County

Harper Elementary School, Wilmette. Grades: K-3. Project: Design and create a prairie habitat garden. Grant Award: \$600.00.

James B. Conant High School Environmental Club, Hoffman Estates. Grades: 9-12. Project: Restore prairie, wetland and savanna habitats on the school grounds. Grant Award: \$600.00.

MaineStay Youth and Family Services, Park Ridge. Grades: 1-8. Project: Grow native prairie plants in a garden intended for use by a variety of groups. Grant Award: \$600.00.

Mason County

New Central Grade School, Havana. Grade: 3. Project: Enhance an established prairie habitat. Grant Award: \$308.13.

McDonough County

Bushnell-Prairie City Community Unit School District 170, Bushnell. Grades: 8-12. Project: Add a tree, grasses, flowers, nesting boxes and a bird observatory to the outdoor classroom. Grant Award: \$599.58.

Montgomery County

Hillsboro Clovers 4-H Club, Irving. Grades: 1-10. Project: Develop a butterfly garden using native plants. Grant Award: \$299.75.

Pulaski County

Century School, Ullin. Grades: K-8. Project: Use native wildflower species to develop a butterfly garden. Grant Award: \$600.00.

Randolph County

Coulterville Unit School District 1, Coulterville. Grade: 6. Project: Design and plant a butterfly garden as part of a three-year habitat development project. Grant Award: \$555.00.

Will County

Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210, Frankfort. Grades: 9-12. Project: Plant native forbs along an informational prairie trail. Grant Award: \$600.00.

Junior Master Gardener_{sm} to Release New Level 2 Curriculum

Operation W.A.T.E.R. Dr. Thistle Goes Underground, a curriculum covering soils and water, is due to be released in late January by the National Junior Master Gardener Program_{sm}. This curriculum is designed for youth in sixth to eighth grades but may be used for a broader age range.

The Junior Master Gardener Program_{sm} is a national youth garden project created at Texas A&M and the U. of I. Master Gardener Program is a state partner. For more information about the program visit the website- www.jmgkids.us If you wish to start a JMG_{sm} program in your county, contact Monica David at modavid@uiuc.edu.



It's Not Too Late!

It's not too late to register for the Master Gardener International conference to be held May 2-5 in Little Rock, Arkansas. The conference features excellent breakout sessions; keynote speakers such as P. Allen Smith and Tina Marie Wilcox (The Widder Wilcox of Rattle Snake Ridge– Ozark Herbalist) and exciting tours of public and private gardens as well as Master Gardener projects. **Conference registration ends on April 1st.** Register online at <http://mg2007.uaex.edu>.

The International Search for Excellence award applications are due to the committee by February 1. Please consider nominating one of your local projects for this award. Please remember that award applications need to be sent to the state office before submission. Directions for submitting an application may be found at: http://mg2007.uaex.edu/search_excellence_guidelines_2007.pdf

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



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