



Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,
News and Education

Vol. 8 No. 4
July- August 2007

Coordinators' Comments

What's New on the National Scene?



The Extension Master Gardener program is 35 years old this year. As part of the celebration, a contest was held to design a "National" logo for the national website and to demonstrate national collaboration and recognition of all Master Gardener programs. The winner of the contest was Dianne Liggett, an Arizona

Master Gardener. **The national logo will not replace our University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener logo.** Instead, this new logo will be used for marketing and promotion of a national unified program.

The first place you will see this logo used is on the national Master Gardener website. Plans are to have the website up and running sometime this fall. The website will contain information about past and future International Master Gardener conferences, Search for Excellence awards, a state coordinators list, basic training and volunteer requirements by state, state reports of volunteer hours and impact stories from around the country.

The Consumer Horticulture National Committee (CHNC) is overseeing the creation of this website. The committee was formed by a vote of all the state Master Gardener Coordinators and members of this committee represent all areas of the country. They are: Rick Durham (Kentucky), David Whiting (Colorado), David Close (Virginia), John Jett (W. Virginia), Mary Meyer (Minnesota) and Monica David (Illinois). Our new USDA Horticulture Program leader is Bill Hoffman. This committee seeks to facilitate collaboration between states on development of educational materials and training; provide a framework whereby Master Gardeners can be mobilized as frontline providers (ex. Sudden Oak Death/*P. ramorum* blight or emerald ash borer) and to seek interaction with national organizations to provide funding for national issues. Stay tuned for updates!

 Monica David, State Coordinator

What's new at conference 2007?

The schedule is complete and registration is now open for conference 2007 "Gardening in Lincoln's Yard". The conference will be held September 6-8 at the Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL. Registration for conference 2007 will be entirely online. Please review the tour and class line-up in this issue of Imagine and then register on the Master Gardener state website at <http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/>. There are two forms linked to the homepage, one for conference registration, and a second if you only wish to attend the awards banquet on Friday September 7th. Credit card is the preferred method of payment but you may register online, print your registration and mail a copy with a check (payable to the University of Illinois). Checks are due within 7 days from the date you registered. You will receive email confirmation of your schedule. No confirmation letters will be mailed this year. Driving directions may be found at www.cpspringfield.crowneplaza.com

Reserve your sleeping room at the Crowne by calling 1-800-589-2769 and referring to the "U of I Extension MG conference" to receive the special conference rate. You may also reserve a room online at the above web address by using the code UIE.

Thursday night after the conference tours we will have a relaxing and informal night. I urge you to make the effort to meet other Master Gardeners from around the state and share success stories and new ideas during this time. The evening will include a continuous slide show of the highlights from the Italian Garden trip. Special guest is Jane Lawder who will portray Mary Todd Lincoln and give us her perspective of Mrs. Lincoln's life.

Is the cost of gas giving you second thoughts about attending the conference? Please consider carpooling to Springfield with volunteers from your county or neighboring counties. It is a great way to share expenses and meet new gardening friends. Another great alternative is the Amtrak train. The Amtrak serves Chicago, Joliet, Dwight, Pontiac, Bloomington-Normal and Lincoln on its route to Springfield. The fare one-way from Chicago to Springfield is about \$17. The Crowne Plaza will provide a free shuttle to and from the train station. Please reserve this ahead of time with the hotel. This is certainly a great alternative for a low cost, low hassle way to travel to conference.

Master Gardener Digital Image Contest

Have you always enjoyed taking photographs of your garden creations? Do you like to take pictures of your prized flowers, fruits or vegetables? If so, here is your chance to showcase your gardening talents through photography. Get your cameras clicking and enter the "Master Gardener Digital Image Contest" for the Illinois State Master Gardener Conference for 2007.

There are Four Categories of entries in the contest:

Plants: Images should include plants. **People:** Images should include human subjects in a garden or natural setting. If the individuals are close enough to recognize, then a photo release form must be submitted with the entry and include the signature from the subject. **Wildlife:** Images should include wildlife such as insects, mammals, reptiles, etc. **Before & After:** Images should display a before shot and after shot of any garden or natural area.

Master Gardeners can submit one image per category and only one image per entrant will be selected to win. All entries must be submitted electronically via e-mail to kbassett@uiuc.edu between May 23, 2007 and August 23, 2007. Only one image per e-mail and the subject line must state "Master Gardener Digital Image Contest." Images must be submitted in jpeg format and should be 1200 x 800 pixels. No panoramic images. They should be in natural color. Each image should be named as the Entrant's Name, Master Gardener County, and the Category of Entry. Example: "John C. Photographer, Smith County, Plants."

Entries will be judged prior to the Illinois State Master Gardener Convention by a panel of three judges. The top entry in each category will receive \$25. All entries will be displayed in a slide show at the Master Gardener Convention. The top 12 entries will also be developed into a calendar.

2007 Silent Auction Donations Needed

We need your help to make the 4th Annual Silent auction a success. We are looking for donations of artwork, sculpture, paintings, book, garden tools, garden gifts etc. The profits from the auction benefit the State Master Gardener office for expenses such as the Imagine newsletter. The auction will be held at the conference on Saturday September 8th during lunch at the Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL. You may send your donation or bring it to the conference but please contact the Mason County office (309-543-3308) BEFORE THE CONFERENCE to let them know what you will be donating.

Master Gardener Poster/Collage Contest

Poster contest - Here's a chance to brag about what project/s your county is doing. This poster can be for: a local event in 2007, an upcoming project, general Master Gardener information, or something fun and creative just for the conference. Think big! Posters will be displayed at the state conference.

What: Often we need to make posters to publicize projects and events. Creating the poster can be a joint project with your county office, if technical help is needed.

Specifics:

1. One page display (8 ½" by 14")
2. Use Microsoft Word or Publisher (available in the county offices)
3. Use digital photos, graphics and text; color or black and white
4. Either send a readable CD or email
5. Be creative

Judging Criteria:

1. Creativity
2. Appearance
3. Master Gardener or Horticulture theme

Deadline: August 23, 2007

Send your entry (readable CD or email) to:

deblee@uiuc.edu - Deborah Lee, Horticulture Coordinator, Adams/Brown Unit, 330 S. 36th Street, Quincy, IL 62301

National Expert on Children's Gardens to Speak in Springfield September 5

Gardening with a child is a great way to learn and grow together. Jane L. Taylor, founder of the Michigan State University Children's Garden, will present a program on "Bringing Magical Elements into a Garden for Kids" on Wednesday, September 5, from 6:30 to 8 pm.

Jane will examine some enthusiastic ideas to enhance, enrich, educate, excite and entertain kids in the garden for their enjoyment, for their eating pleasure, and for the environment. This is a great opportunity to hear a nationally known children's garden consultant share her ideas about what makes a garden a great experience for a child.

The program will be held at the University of Illinois Extension Sangamon-Menard Unit building #30, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield. Cost for the program is \$10. Pre-registration is encouraged. Check made payable to University of Illinois Extension may be mailed to Sangamon-Menard Unit, 2501 N. 8th Street, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, 62704. For more information call (217) 782-4617.

International Conference Highlights

The 2007 International Master Gardener Conference at Little Rock was true to its theme.... “Celebrate Gardening in the Natural State.” Over 1500 Master Gardeners celebrated and enjoyed the conference related tours, the many educational seminars, a great trade show, and the sights and sounds of Little Rock. The Peabody Hotel and the Statehouse Convention Center were perfect choices for a large, active convention. The proximity of the Doubletree Hotel with the Old State House Museum next door was a plus also. The River Market district of Little Rock offers many shops, stores, restaurants, museums, and other interesting places that I hope to revisit sometime in the near future.

My convention began with a pre conference tour to Garvan Woodland Gardens on the way to Hot Springs, and later Hot Springs Village. You will not be disappointed if you visit Garvan Gardens. I thought the National Park in Hot Springs was very interesting from a geological and historical perspective. The MG reception at Tillman’s Antiques, a hot springs bath, and a night in the Arlington Hotel were enjoyable experiences. We saw so many outstanding home gardens in Hot Springs Village that I need my pictures now to remind me of where I was at during our several stops. The Arkansas Master Gardens were terrific hosts, guides, and professionals throughout the week.

P. Allen Smith is a resident of Little Rock and his keynote presentation “Confessions of a TV Gardener” followed by Jo Luck of Heifer International did a good job with their presentations and got the day to a good start. North Little Rock, Quapaw Quarter, and MG Projects Tour showed a terrific variety of gardens. Other tours provided more outstanding gardens. “Taste of Little Rock” provided us with great food on Thursday evening. Wayne Pianta from Pan America/Ball Seed made an informative presentation called “Trends in Gardening” to conclude the conference on Saturday. I did enjoy the splendid accommodations, Southern Hospitality, heritage, and the extra time that I spent at the Clinton Presidential Center.

The next International Master Gardener Conference is in Las Vegas, Nevada March 22-26, 2009 and the Nevada Master Gardeners can’t wait to have us there.

Ron Johnson, DeKalb Master Gardener Coordinator

Master Gardener Advisory Committee Openings

The state Master Gardener advisory committee is looking for two Master Gardener volunteers— one each from the NE and WC extension regions. The term is for three years and the committee meets 4 times per year. These meetings are in February (by telenet), May, September (at the state conference) and November. The state committee is made up of 2 staff and 2 Master Gardeners from each of the five Extension regions along with the state coordinator.

The goals of the committee are:

- * To serve as advisory council to the state coordinator
- * Encourage equitable distribution of state Master Gardener resources
- * Recommend minimum standards for core training
- * Strengthen and support state education and training
- * Increase awareness of the program
- * Support an annual conference
- * Recommend policies and guidelines for the program

If you would be interested in applying for one of the openings (you must be from the NE or WC region), talk to your local coordinator. There is an application form on the website at www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg, on the MG resources page. Please fill out your application and take it to your local coordinator for their approval. A supporting letter from your county director, MG coordinator or educator must accompany your application.

Applications are due to the state office by August 3.

NWF Offers Green Hour Program

The National Wildlife Federation has developed a Green Hour program to help reverse the “nature deficit” in today’s children. Its designed to help get kids—and their parents— off the couch, out the door and exploring the world around them. A Kaiser Family Foundation study finds that U.S. children (ages 8 to 18) spend an average of 6.5 hours a day inside using electronic media: computers, video games, television and MP3 players.

The Green Hour program and website (www.greenhour.org) show parents and caregivers how children benefit from an hour of unstructured outdoor play each day. The children will become fitter and leaner and some studies show that their immune systems also grow stronger. Time spent surrounded by nature helps young people see where they fit in the world and the value of wildlife and conservation.

Macon County Wins National Search for Excellence Award

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners in Macon County are proud to announce that they are the winner of one of seven National Search for Excellence awards. These awards recognize outstanding and innovative Master Gardener projects from all over the United States and Canada. Macon County volunteers were on hand to receive their award at the International Master Gardener held May 2-5 in Little Rock Arkansas.

The Search for Excellence awards are given out every two years and applications are taken in seven categories: youth programs; demonstration gardens; workshop or presentation; community service; innovative project; special audiences or horticulture therapy and general Master Gardener accomplishment. The Macon County project, WAND Demonstration Garden, received first place in the demonstration garden category. The WAND demo garden began in 2004 as a tool to demonstrate and promote gardening via a weekly segment on the local TV station in Decatur, IL. That first summer viewers turned in to see the good, the bad and the ugly side of vegetable growing. Problems included poor soil, a hungry local deer population and the occasional groundhog. The failures were popular with the viewers as they liked to see the failures and how Master Gardeners worked to remedy problems. The garden more than doubled in 2005 and the volunteers and the horticulture educator present a live TV segment each week broadcast from the garden. All stages of the garden year are covered, from planning to planting to harvesting and putting the garden to bed by sowing a winter rye cover crop.

Congratulations to the Macon County Master Gardeners on an outstanding and practical project.

Five other counties in Illinois also submitted entries. Although these projects were not selected to receive an award, they are great examples of the excellent community service going on around the state.

1. Mason County Fairgrounds (Mason County)
2. Edgar County Homeless Shelter Beautification Project (Edgar County)
3. DeKalb County Nursing Home Courtyard Project (DeKalb County)
4. Plant A Row for the Hungry (Sangamon-Menard Unit)
5. The Gardens at Historic Stephenson House (Madison-St. Clair Unit)

Chairperson's Chat

The Garden Writers Association discovered some interesting things from their 2006 Summer Gardening Trends Research Report. They surveyed 105 million US consumer households. They found that 28.3 million households, or 1 out of every 3 households, plan to do a major landscape upgrade this year. 31% of that plan to upgrade their landscaping, while others plan to build a patio, gazebo, water garden, etc. According to the 2000 Census, there are about 134,000 households in Kane County where my office is located. If this national trend is reflected in Kane County, which means that over 44,600 local households will be upgrading their landscapes soon. If each project involves planting just 2 trees, that is over 80,000 trees. If U of I Extension can increase the long term success of these projects by educating homeowners about how to select, plant and care for their new trees (and other plants) we will have made a great impact.



The survey also found that 63% of those households with a yard or garden grow some of their own vegetables. 70% eat them fresh, 30% preserve them, 56% share with friends and 20% donate them to others. Again, the potential exists to make a significant impact on the community by helping these home gardeners "*Learn to grow*".

These survey results show that there is a great need for sound research based information and recommendations. That translates to a wealth of opportunities for Master Gardeners to make a difference. Don't let another day go by without getting involved in a project that will make a difference in your life...and in someone else's.

Spading on,
Barbara Bates
Kane County, MG Advisory Chairperson

Recognizing Volunteers for "Time Served"

The volunteer hours tallying is complete and I am happy to report that University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners donated 155, 628 hours of volunteer time and participated in 37, 895 continuing education hours. If we translate these volunteer hours into dollars (using the Independent Sector amount of \$18.04/volunteer hour) volunteers have given back \$2.81 million dollars to the citizens of Illinois. Impressive to say the least!

Although number of hours volunteered per Master Gardener doesn't show the whole picture on individual contributions, it is nice to recognize folks that give back significant hours year after year. You may not be someone who gives hundreds of hours each year, but please remember that your contribution is always appreciated and truly makes a difference to your community.

Since the state office began tracking volunteer hours in 2000, 195 Master Gardeners have given over 500 hours of service; 43 have given over 1000 hours; 19 have given over 1,500 hours; 10 have donated greater than 2000 and 3 have given the program over 3,000 hours. Volunteers with over 2,000 hours will a \$50 discount and those with over 3000 hours will receive a \$75 discount for the 2007 state conference registration.

Join me in recognizing these volunteers!

 Monica David, State Coordinator

Greater than 3,000 hours:

Janice Cook (CBG), **Julie Hughes** (Vermilion) & **Joe Temple** (LaSalle)

Greater than 2,000 hours:

Mariellen Griffith (McLean), **Alvin Hanzlik** (Kendall), **Diana Husband** (Cook South Sub), **Patti Kirpatrick** (Will), **Linda Kopacz** (Kendall), **Dorothy Ksiakiewicz** (Vermilion), **Adrienna Lutter** (Kendall), **Susan Lyons** (Lake), **Cheryl Pettus** (Champaign) and **Linda Smith** (McLean)

Greater than 1,500 hours:

Paul Barrett (LaSalle), **John Bodensteiner** (Vermilion), **Howard Bressler** (CBG), **Sam Darin** (CBG), **Hope Forcier** (Lake), **Marvin Ganek** (CBG), **Caroline Gherardini** (Sangamon-Menard), **Sam Goldman** (CBG), **Camille Hanzlik** (Kendall), **Elaine Juhl** (CBG), **Helen Leake** (McLean), **Carol McClure** (Champaign), **Anita Portugal** (CBG), **Nancy Reise** (CBG), **Barbara Savitt** (CBG), **Charlynn Schweingruber** (CBG), **Ann Tice** (Champaign), **Anton Weber** (CBG) and **Elaine Weil** (DuPage).

Greater than 1000 hours:

Michele Abrams (CBG), **Janice Becker** (CBG), **Louis Becker** (CBG), **Harry Clayton** (Edgar), **Bob Coppernoll** (Peoria), **Judy Diehl** (Winnebago), **Sherry Egloff** (CBG), **Katie Grady** (Peoria), **Bob Haisman** (Cook), **Lee Hammond** (Peoria), **Werner Heidtke** (McHenry), **Connie Howes** (CBG), **Betty Jeppsen** (DuPage), **Jim Kemper** (CBG), **Kathleen King** (Lake), **Sandy Klausman** (Will), **Mary Kurrus** (CBG), **Peggy Lackman** (McHenry), **Nancy Lemieux** (Peoria), **Ron Maida** (Kendall), **Joanne Manella** (CBG), **Marvin MacDonald** (Vermilion), **Nancy Miles** (Cook South Sub), **Mary Moore** (Logan), **Rhoda Muchmore** (CBG), **Sally Olds** (CBG), **Ginger Ross** (Tazewell), **Judy Sager** (Crawford), **Warren Senecke** (DuPage), **Merle Sharp** (CBG), **Jim Simon** (Champaign), **Ron Smith** (Madison-St. Clair), **Raol Smoczynski** (CBG), **Pat Sollars** (Vermilion), **Fern Stinson** (Macon), **Betty Stogner** (CBG), **Charlotte Talkington** (McLean), **Mary Theising** (Winnebago), **Celia Turner** (Lake), **Ralph Underwood** (Vermilion), **Shirley Waters** (Rock Island), **Lynn Webb** (Peoria) and **Russell Zapel** (CBG).

2007 America in Bloom Symposium & Awards Program to be held in Rockford

September 27– 29 are the dates for “Rock n’ Roll”, the annual America in Bloom Symposium to be held at the Clock Tower Resort in Rockford. America in Bloom is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting beautification programs and encouraging community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, and trees. Each year awards are given to communities all around the country to recognize beautification and stewardship accomplishments. The symposium includes learning tours of Midway Village, Rosencrance Serenity gardens, LaPaloma Gardens, Anderson Japanese Garden and others. Keynote presentation is by Doug Hoerr, Hoerr Landscaping with break-out sessions by recognized speakers such as Jim Nau, Ball Horticulture, and Edith Makra from Morton Arboretum. To find out more or to register go to <http://www.americainbloom.org>

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



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.
United States Department of Agriculture Local Extension Councils Cooperating

University of Illinois Master Gardener Office
Department of Natural Resources and
Environmental Sciences
1201 S. Dorner Drive
Urbana, IL 61801

Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,
News and Education

Edited by

Monica David

Illinois Master Gardener Coordinator

University of Illinois Extension

1201 S. Dorner Drive

Urbana, IL 61801

217-265-5256

modavid@uiuc.edu

Website: www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO.
75
Champaign, IL