



# Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,  
News and Education

Vol. 9 No. 1  
January-February 2008

## Coordinators' Comments

**Happy New Year to all!** If you haven't already done so, view the 2008 MG calendar with pictures from our photo contest award winners. It may be downloaded from the state webpage at [www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg)

On February 21, 2008, eXtension will formally announce the release of its national website. eXtension is an Internet-based educational partnership of the 74 institutions of the Land-Grant university system that will help people improve their lives by providing access to research-based information. This website shares the resources and expertise from virtual teams of faculty and staff throughout the country. It will feature information on a huge variety of topics from consumer horticulture to fire ants, horses, personal finance, parenting, wildlife, dairy cattle and much much more. The purpose of this website is not to replace individual state websites but rather to use national shared strengths with local customized focus as well as to enhance the visibility of Extension programs.

The eXtension site has undergone a "soft launch"- so it is available but hasn't yet been publicized. I will be sending more information to county offices about the publicity and national launch at a later date. At that point we can refer our clients to the website. However I urge all Master Gardeners and staff to check out the site and visit the section on 'Gardens, Lawns and Landscapes'. This is our webpage and it features basic horticultural content, links to information from various universities including the University of Illinois, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and an important link to the National Master Gardener webpage. This will be the site for information on individual state MG impacts, national impacts, the International Master Gardener conference and state contact information.

To access the site go to <http://www.extension.org> . I will send updates on the national launch and exciting new features to be offered very soon.  
Stay tuned for updates! ✍️ Monica David

## Master Gardeners Needed as BeeSpotters!

Honey bee colonies are in decline in many states, but little is known about their wild cousins, the bumble bees, or, for that matter, honey bees living on their own in the wild without beekeepers. A new initiative from the University of Illinois seeks to build a better record of honey bee and bumble bee abundance and distribution in Illinois by recruiting citizen scientists to report on wild bees seen anywhere in the state. Illinois Master Gardeners and 4-H youth are now being asked to fill this role as BeeSpotters.

The new BeeSpotter website connects bee enthusiasts and gardeners to resources that will help you identify local bees, post photographs and enter geographic information about wild bees seen in backyards, parks or other Illinois locales. The location data will be incorporated into a map to create a statewide record of bee populations. The site also features guides to bees, and information on several other bee-related topics such as natural history, sting treatment, and bee gardens.

U of I entomology professor and department head May Berenbaum is the leader of this project. She chaired the National Research Council committee that reported this year on the status of pollinators in North America. A key finding was that too little information on pollinator abundance and distribution has been collected in the U.S. "We don't know what is going on with pollinators because America has never deemed it important enough to keep track of its pollination resources," Berenbaum said. "Given that 90 crops in the U.S. agricultural sector depend on a single species of pollinator, and other crops depend on other pollinators, it would seem that for economic reasons alone this has been a serious oversight on our part," she said.

Please consider becoming a BeeSpotter for this important project. It is easy to get involved.... just set up an acct on the website and record your bee sightings later this year at <http://beespotter.mste.uiuc.edu> .

## Important Dates

**January 16-18:** MidAm Trade Show and Workshops  
McCormick Place, Chicago, IL. [www.midam.org](http://www.midam.org)

**January 19:** Herb Day, Urbana Holiday Inn. 217-333-7738. See article in this newsletter.

**January 26:** “A Winter Day in the Garden”, Zwermann Theatre, Lincoln Trail College, Robinson, IL. 9 am. to 3 pm. Doors open at 8 am. The keynote speaker is Jon Carloftis “Making the Most of Where Ever You Are”, with 4 other speakers including Danny Whitehurst “Spring in Bloom...The Art of Bulbs and Branches”, Nancy Clifton “Ball Container Gardens and Grounds” and Dianne Noland “Using Perennials and Natives in the Landscape-Blending with Nature”. Registration fee is \$35 and includes coffee/snacks and lunch. Late registration fee \$40 after Jan. 11th. Sponsored by the Crawford County Master Gardeners and LTC. 618-546-1549. Flyer and registration form can be found at: [web.extension.uiuc.edu/crawford/](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/crawford/).

**January 31:** Down to Earth Gardening, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL. This symposium combines the talents of two of Europe’s most prominent garden makers— Helen Dillon and David Howard. Helen is the author of four books, lectures internationally and has been honored by the Royal Horticultural Society. David Howard is head gardener at Highgrove to Their Highnesses, The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. He trained at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh and Hillier’s Nurseries in England. These international stars will be joined on the program by Richard Bittner who teaches conifers and ornamental plants at Longwood Gardens and William Culina, director of horticultural research for the New England Wild Flower Society. Registration costs \$124 for *Horticulture* subscribers/ \$134 for the public. Call 888-436-7764 to register.

**February 5:** Southwestern Illinois Tree School, Hardin IL. 618-692-9434

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

**February 8-10:** 20th Midwestern Herb and Garden Show, Times Square Mall, Mt. Vernon, IL. Friday and Saturday 10 am to 9 pm, Sunday Noon to 5 pm. The event features Rob Proctor from the Denver Botanical Gardens and Scott Kunst from Old House Gardens. Educational sessions will be offered throughout the 3 day event. A huge selection of vendors will be on hand.

No admission is charged. Sponsored by the Herbs for Health and Fun Club. For more information visit [www.midwesternherbandgardenshow.com](http://www.midwesternherbandgardenshow.com)

**February 13:** Southern Illinois Vegetable Growers School, Mt. Vernon, IL. 618-692-9434

**February 15:** Illinois/Wisconsin Fruit and Vegetable Conference. Contact Maurice Ogutu- [ogutu@uiuc.edu](mailto:ogutu@uiuc.edu)

**February 18:** Gardening with Chocolate, Monroe County Annex Building in Waterloo. 7 pm. Betsy Alexander will be presenting a program on using plants described as chocolate in color or scent, in the landscape. Special chocolate refreshments will be served. Contact the Monroe County office— 618-939-3434 to attend.

**February 19:** Western IL Fruit and Vegetable School, Quincy, IL. Contact Mike Roegge at [roeggem@uiuc.edu](mailto:roeggem@uiuc.edu)

**February 20:** Kankakee Area Vegetable Growers School Kankakee, IL. Contact James Theuri at [jtheu50@uiuc.edu](mailto:jtheu50@uiuc.edu)

**February 23:** Gardener’s Pathway, A Workshop for Planning and Planting, Kishwaukee College Conference Center, 21193 Malta Rd, Malta, IL. Check-in 7:30– 8:10 am. followed by the keynote “Captivating Conifers for the Landscape” by Rich Eyre. There will be 18 different workshops for gardeners to choose from including: creative hardscapes; insects; shrubs; roses; photography; gardening in small spaces; ground covers; iris growing; creating water features with Aquascapes and much more. Cost is \$50/person and includes lunch, vendors, book sale, door prizes and the Master Gardener Help Desk. Sponsored by DeKalb County Master Gardeners and Kishwaukee College. 815-825-2086.

**February 23:** Nursery School: Lessons in Gardening, I wireless Center, 1201 River Drive, Moline, IL. 8 am to 3 pm. Denny Schrock, Hort editor for Meredith Corporation will offer a keynote address on Container Gardening. Attendees will be able to choose from 15 classes on topics ranging from orchids, beekeeping, miniature gardens, landscaping with stone, evergreens and more. The \$45 fee includes lunch and vendors. New this year is a Nursery School for kids ages 8 and older. Youth will explore plants thru hands-on projects such as terrarium making; plant propagation from seeds and cuttings; flower arranging and making birdhouses. Cost for kids is \$25 which includes lunch, snacks and supplies. Sponsored by Rock Island County Master Gardeners. 309-796-0512.

**February 23:** Joys of Gardening, Freeport, IL. Key-note speaker, four breakout sessions, lunch, door prizes, seed giveaway and silent auction to benefit local Hort programming. Cost is \$30. Sponsored by the Stephenson County Master Gardeners. 815-235-4125.

**February 26-27:** ProHort Symposium, Embassy Suites Hotel, East Peoria, IL. Keynote sessions will be “Living Big! Profitable Secrets of Tree Life” by Kim Coder and “Rose Breeding Efforts for the Midwest” by Ping Lim. Each day features three breakout sessions by local and national experts. Sponsored by the Illinois Green Industry Association. For a brochure and to register visit [www.prohort.org](http://www.prohort.org) or call 888-525-3900.

**March 1:** Gardening for Food and Fun, Rock Valley College, Rockford, IL. Cost of \$40 includes four breakout sessions, continental breakfast and lunch, silent auction and class materials. Sponsored by Winnebago County Master Gardeners and Rock Valley College. 815-986-4357.

**March 3– April 4th:** Spring Garden Lectures, Quad City Botanical Center, Rock Island, IL. Monday evenings 7-9 pm. Sessions cover such topics as pruning, vegetables, floral arranging, new plants, herbs and more. 309-796-0512.

**March 4-5:** Illinois Small Fruit and Strawberry School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. 618-692-9434.

**March 8:** Home, Lawn and Garden Day, Central Catholic High School, 1201 Airport Rd., Bloomington, IL. Three speakers will be featured: Eliza Fournier, Chicago Botanic Garden, Martha Smith, Extension Educator and Monica David, MG Coordinator. Breakout sessions on a variety of topics included. Registration of \$40 includes, classes, exhibits, speakers, lunch, refreshments and door prizes. Sponsored by the McLean County Master Gardeners. 309-663-8306.

**March 8:** Weekend Gardener, Gateway Convention Center, #1 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL. This day-long event features presentations by U of I educators, Master Gardeners and area professionals and offers five sessions of 20 concurrent classes to choose from. \$35 fee includes lunch. Sponsored by the Madison-St. Clair Master Gardeners. 618-650-7050 or 618-236-4172.

**March 12:** Fruit Tree Pruning Clinic, James Carter Home, 2 miles north of Manito. 1 pm. Elizabeth Wahle, Extension educator will be the presenter. Hands-on workshop, pre-registration not required. Sponsored by

Mason and Tazewell County Master Gardeners. 309-347-6614.

**March 15:** Gardeners Day, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL. Numerous class sessions, vendors, lunch and door prizes included in the \$30 fee. Sponsored by the McDonough County Master Gardeners. 309-837-3939.

**March 17:** Trees in the Urban Landscape, County Annex Building in Waterloo, IL. 7 pm. David Williams will present a class on tree selection, placement, pruning and maintenance. Sponsored by Monroe County Master Gardeners and the Waterloo Tree Committee. 618-939-3434.

**March 15:** Spring into Gardening– Gardeners Day, U of I Extension Bldg #30, IL State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL. 8 am. to 12 pm. Nine one-hour sessions will be offered by U of I Extension specialists and local horticulture experts in 3 sessions. Registration is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Pre-registration is encouraged. Sponsored by the Sangamon-Menard Unit Master Gardeners. 217-782-4617.

**March 29:** Dig into Spring, Sponsored by the Knox County Master Gardeners. 309-342-5108.

**March 29:** Spring Garden Seminar, Illinois Valley Community College, 815 N Orlando Smith Ave., Oglesby, IL 9 am to 3:15 pm. The keynote speaker is Greg Stack, U of I Extension educator. Attendees may choose 3 breakout sessions from these topics: ornamental grasses; bonsai, Emerald Ash Borer; roses, compost, landscaping, pruning, herbs, tree ID and more. Fee of \$30 includes continental breakfast and lunch. Sponsored by the La-Salle County Master Gardeners. 815-433-0707.

**April 5:** Gardener’s Big Day, Spoon River College, Canton, IL. Martha Smith, Extension educator will give a keynote address on miniature gardening and Dr. Janis Coons from EIU will close the day with a talk on native prairie plants. Other sessions include– Body Smart Gardening, favorite perennials, herbs and IPM. Sponsored by the Fulton County Master Gardeners and Spoon River College. 309-547-3711.

**April 5:** Gardenfest 2008– Ready, Set, Grow, McHenry County College, 8900 US HWY 14, Crystal Lake, IL. Storyteller, Master Gardener and organic farmer Rich Tobiasz will present the keynote “Make Mine Green”. There will be 27 other classes, some hands-on, some lecture, featuring lecturers from Extension, McHenry County Hort department and local green professionals. Sponsored by the McHenry County Master Gardeners and McHenry County College. 815-455-8697.

## Chairperson's Chat

According to the USDA Hardiness Zone charts, Illinois spans from Zone 4b to 6a. This indicates a significant difference in temperatures from the northern edge of Illinois to its southern tip. But what it also indicates is the climate changes that are slowly evolving around the world.

In the U.S. we have seen warmer temps in recent years and that will affect what we have planted now and what we may choose to plant in the future. If you were to look at Hardiness Zone Maps from 1990 and compare to today, you will see an obvious shift in the zones.

Known to most as global warming, this shift in average temperatures means two things: 1) there is more CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere that is displacing oxygen and 2) we may need to consider different plants for our landscape.

As gardeners there are some things we can do to protect our environment. Over the lifetime of one tree, we can remove over a ton of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Placing trees strategically around our homes can reduce the need for summer cooling and winter heating. This relief on fuel consumption helps to reduce carbon dioxide emissions due to the burning of fossil fuels. Compost kitchen and garden waste, limit water consumption, reduce the use of gas-powered garden tools, and plant a rain garden can all help to reduce energy consumption. Whatever we can do to reduce our energy consumption will also reduce our contribution to global warming.

 Karen Durtschi, Program Coordinator, Boone County  
MG state advisory chairperson

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## IL MG Conference 2008 to Focus on Greening our World

Mark September 11-13, 2008 on your calendar and plan to join the NE region Master Gardeners for conference 2008. The conference will be held at the brand new luxurious Westin Lombard Yorktown Center which is adjacent to shopping and fine dining. Conference planners have chosen a "green" theme and many of the sessions will focus on ways to make our gardens sustainable and environmentally friendly. Tours are being planned to highlight Chicagoland gardens as well as "green" sites such as rooftop gardens, the Green Technology Center, the Green Earth Institute and native prairie sites. Watch the Imagine newsletter and the website [www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/) for updates.

## Midwest Region Master Gardener Conference

### "Gardening Through the Continuum of Life"

The Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardeners are pleased to announce their hosting of the Midwest region conference to be held in Milwaukee, WI on July 16-19, 2008. The conference will be held at the Wyndham Airport Conference and Convention Center, across from the Milwaukee General Mitchell airport. The theme is **Gardening Through the Continuum of Life** and this will be a look at gardening through all ages and phases of life.

The conference will kick off on Wednesday evening with a get-together meal and social networking. Thursday tours provide your choice of six fantastic motor coach tours of private gardens in the area along with lunch at a local restaurant.

Friday after breakfast, the educational part of the conference begins with a presentation by Gene Rothert, enabling garden author, educator and manager of the Chicago Botanic Garden's Buehler Enabling Garden and Horticulture Therapy Services. The presentation will be followed by four one-hour breakout sessions. Friday evening will be the main keynote address by Michael Weishan of the PBS Victory Garden. Vendors, MG displays and a silent auction complete the day.

Saturday morning features Melinda Myers, author and host of Public TV's Great Lakes Gardener. Later it is "hands-on" day with opportunities to try something new. The final send-off includes a raffle and future convention announcements.

The conference website will be available after the first of the year. Copies of the conference brochure can be sent or printed from the following link:

[http://Milwaukee.uwex.edu/mg/documents/Brochure1\\_4\\_25\\_07.pdf](http://Milwaukee.uwex.edu/mg/documents/Brochure1_4_25_07.pdf)

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## MG Apparel Available Soon

Check the March-April issue of Imagine for information about ordering Illinois Master Gardener apparel. A color photo sheet of the items offered will be included with the newsletter and sent to the training sites for distribution to the trainees. All ordering will be done online this year.

## Herb Day 2008

A full lineup of herbal experts are scheduled to deliver educational sessions to inspire herb gardening at the annual U of I Herb Day, scheduled for Saturday, January 19, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, 1001 Killarney Street, Urbana, Illinois.

**Jeanne Rose**, San Francisco, California, will speak about the aromatic history of the use of essential oils. She is a noted author and expert on this subject, who teaches a wide array of classes on the uses of essential oils during the year.

**Pat Burnell**, Burnell's Neat Wheat, Varna, Illinois, will give a lecture-demonstration of the ancient art form of wheat weaving.

**Ben Lubchansky**, Urbana, Illinois, recently completed his Masters degree working on a project with pastured poultry and organic vegetable production. He is also an accomplished young chef who will conduct a cooking demonstration using herbs.

**Jonathan Hoffman**, Vicksburg, Michigan, is in the process of writing a book about the plants that Lewis and Clark encountered along their historic route. Jonathan has traveled much of the route and will share his knowledge and excellent photos of the herbal footprints of Lewis and Clark.

**Jeanne Rose** will complete the day with a second talk about the production and use of essential oils in everyday life, entitled More Smelly Stories.

Herb Day includes a retail area where vendors will sell a broad spectrum of herb, spice, and gardening products.

Attendees may register through January 11, 2008 as long as space remains available. Registrations will be allotted on a first come, first served basis. Once the available 270 spaces are filled, any additional registrations will be returned. Once the 270 spaces are filled, any additional registrations will be returned. On-site registration (which does not include lunch) will only be available if all 270 seats are not filled by January 11th.

Cost of registration is only \$49 per person. This includes seating in the lectures, coffee, tea, and rolls during

Morning registration, an herbal themed lunch buffet, and access to the retail area. A vegan plates is available, but only if requested on the registration form.

Mail checks, payable to the University of Illinois, to: Herb Day 2008, Attn: Carol Preston, S-406 Turner Hall, 1102 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana, Illinois 61801. Credit cards can not be accepted and cancellations will not be refunded. No confirmation of registration will be sent. To confirm receipt of registration, or for more information, call 217-333-7738 or email [preston1@uiuc.edu](mailto:preston1@uiuc.edu)

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## 2009 International MG Conference "New Frontiers in Horticulture and Gardening"



The Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada invite you to join them in Las Vegas from March 22-26 for the 2009 International Master Gardener Conference. The conference will focus on issues that gardeners everywhere face—water conservations, proper plant selection, soil enrichment, pest control— while also presenting new concepts in environmental stewardship and “green” technologies. Workshop topics range from green technologies, water conservation, heirloom plants, native seeds, ancestors gardens, farm to restaurant and much more. Tour destinations include Hoover Dam, Grand Canyon, Ethyl M. Cactus Garden, Red Rock Canyon, Desert Rose Garden and the gardens at the Bellagio and Wynn resorts.

The host hotel, the Alexis Park is the premiere all-suite non-gaming resort in Las Vegas. Beautifully landscaped grounds, three sparkling pools and finely appointed guest suites ensure a relaxing retreat. Visit the website [www.alexispark.com](http://www.alexispark.com) for more information.

Starting in January 2008 confirmed information on speakers, tours and “things to do” will be found at the conference website: [www.unce.unr.edu/imgc](http://www.unce.unr.edu/imgc). On-line registration and hotel reservations begin in Summer 2008.

## It's Not Too Late to Sign Up for Ireland

Four places still remain on the 2008 Master Gardener trip to Ireland, June 2-12, 2008. Public garden highlights include Powerscourt Gardens, Birr Castle Demesne, Inacullin on Garinish Island, Lakemount Gardens, Anne's Grove, Lismore Castle, Altamont Gardens and Mt. Usher Gardens. Travelers will enjoy two days of private gardens including the famous garden of plantswoman Helen Dillon. The tour also includes free time to explore the charming towns of Dublin, Killarney and Kilkenny.

Tour price is \$3949 per person double occupancy. The tour price includes airfare, lodging, tour by private coach, entrance fees for gardens, all breakfasts, one lunch and four dinners. This trip is open to the public as well as Master Gardeners. To make a reservation or for information contact Robyn Gulstrom as soon as possible at 269-629-9248 or [robyn@travelhouse.com](mailto:robyn@travelhouse.com)

## Imagine

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