




Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,
News and Education

Vol. 10 No. 1
January-February 2009

Coordinators Comments

Happy New Year to all! I am glad to turn the calendar and begin a fresh year and I am sure many of you are as well. I wanted to let you know about some new developments which will be occurring in 2009. First of all, Extension educators and faculty are busy working on a revision of our Master Gardener training manual. The manual will be available for the 2010 training sessions and will include revised and updated information in most of the chapters. We will also include new chapters on weeds, water gardening and wildlife management. Current plans are to have both a print manual and a CDrom manual available by the end of the year.

Secondly, the Consumer Horticulture National Committee, which is made up of state coordinators from all over the country, has just released a national survey to be completed by each state. This survey seeks to gain information about things such as training done in each state; number of personal contacts made by Master Gardeners through presentations, hotlines etc.; number of minorities reached by our programs; and whether Master Gardeners are doing programming to reduce landfill waste, reduce fertilizer runoff and conserve natural resources such as water. The national committee hopes to place the work done by Master Gardeners in the state and national spotlight. This is one of the reasons that it is so important for you to report your individual volunteer hours and program outputs to your local coordinator. When these are compiled for the whole state they show an impressive picture. But when all the states submit data— you can imagine the impact scenario. With this data plus the information gleaned from the survey— we hope to be in a position to influence decision makers on a national level and to show the importance of this program. The national committee is also looking at several important sponsorship opportunities for not only funding but for help with providing educational tools for Master Gardeners around the country. Although these sponsorships have run into some road blocks due to the economic down turn we are hopeful that these projects will move forward 2009.  Monica David

Master Gardener Retention Study

Attention Master Gardeners – we need your help!

Kristin Huls, Hancock County Master Gardener Coordinator, is conducting a study on Master Gardener Retention in Illinois as a part of her thesis to meet her Masters Degree requirements. All Illinois Master Gardeners, including those who are currently trainees, interns, active, inactive, and alumni, are invited to complete a 10 to 15 minute survey answering questions about their involvement in the Illinois Master Gardener program. Participation in the study is voluntary, and all responses will be kept confidential. Results of the survey will be shared with University of Illinois Extension staff and the Illinois Master Gardener community in effort to make changes or adaptations to further improve retention rates among Illinois Master Gardener volunteers. The survey will be active from *January 19, 2009 through March 1, 2009* and may be accessed through the Illinois Master Gardener website at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/news> . You may request a hard copy mailed directly to you by contacting Kristin Huls at 217-357-2150 or khuls@illinois.edu or through your local Master Gardener Coordinator. Thank you, in advance, for your participation and helping to improve our Illinois Master Gardener program!

Last Call for Holland, Belgium and Germany Trip

Monica David will lead this trip to visit the tulips and spring gardens in the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and Germany. The trip will also highlight historical sites such as Heidelberg castle, the Rhine River and the musical sites in Salzburg, Austria. The trip runs May 3 thru the 14th. Cost is \$4,325 including airfare, hotel, bus transportation, entrance to all gardens and some meals. Last date to sign up is January 15th. Contact Robyn Gulstrom to hold your spot. 269-629-9248 or rgulstrom@comcast.net

Important Dates

January 24: "A Winter Day in the Garden", Zwermann Theatre, Lincoln Trail College, Robinson. 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sessions include "Garden for Change = Transform the World" by Eva Shaw; "Tooling Around the Garden" by Roger Swain; "Fun with Gourds" by Helen Thomas; "Diversity Beyond Belief - The Wonderful World of Cucurbits" by Mac Condill and "Birdscaping" by Sharon Sorenson. Sponsored by the Crawford County MGs and LTC. Fee of \$45 includes lunch. 618-546-1549. web.extension.uiuc.edu/crawford/

February 3: Southern Illinois Commercial Tree Fruit School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon. Contact Elizabeth Wahle, 618-692-9434 or wahle@uiuc.edu Online at: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/edwardsvillecenter/>

February 4: Southwestern Illinois Commercial Tree Fruit School, 1st Presbyterian Church, Hardin. Contact Elizabeth Wahle, 618-692-9434 or wahle@uiuc.edu. <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/calhounjersey/>

February 10, 12, 17 and 19: 2009 Gardening Series- "Let's Spring into Gardening". Two sessions offered at three different locations- Forreston Library, Byron Forest Preserve and Rochelle Methodist Church. Topics for session one include: new plants, butterfly gardening and spring bulbs. Session two will cover native plants, edible container plants and plant cuttings and potting plants. Sponsored by the Ogle County MGs. Fee \$15. 815-732-2191.

February 11: Southern Illinois Commercial Vegetable Growers School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon. Contact Elizabeth Wahle, 618-692-9434, wahle@uiuc.edu. Register online at: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/edwardsvillecenter/>

February 13-15: Midwestern Herb and Garden Show, Time Square Mall, Mt. Vernon. The keynote speaker will be Roger Swain. The show also features educational sessions and Midwestern vendors. Free admission. www.midwesternherbandgardenshow.com.

February 17: Western Illinois Fruit and Vegetable School, Adams County Extension, Quincy. Contact Mike Roegge, 217-223-8380, roeggem@uiuc.edu.

February 19-21: Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association Annual Conference, Hilton Inn, Springfield. Contact Megan Pressnall, 217-782-6515, mpressnall@extension.uiuc.edu

February 24-25: Pro-Hort Symposium, Embassy Suites Hotel, East Peoria. Wide array of sessions and well-known speakers including Kris Bachtell- The Role of Plant Exploration, Evaluation and Introduction; Greg Pierceall- Smart Design; Jim Chatfield- Woody Insects; Nancy Pataky- Invasive Diseases; Diane Noland- Native Plants in the Perennial Border and more. Sponsored by the Illinois Green Industry Association. 888-525-3900 or www.prohort.org.

February 24-25: Gateway Green Industry Conference, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville. Two days of educational sessions including: "Diagnosis: It's not CSI"; Natives; Tree Diseases; Compostable and Plantable Pots; Bulbs; Reducing Turf Diseases via Cultural Controls; Selecting Evergreen Trees and Shrubs; Design Strategies; Fertilizing Woody Landscape Plants and more. MG admission with ID card or letter of active status is \$45 (includes lunch, sessions and trade show). 618-650-7050 or www.extension.uiuc.edu/madisonstclair

February 28: Spring into Gardening, Coles County Lifespan Center, on Loxa Road between Mattoon and Charleston. Check in 8:00-8:45 a.m.; program 8:45 - noon. The opening speaker will be Tony Bratsch "Flowering Shrubs for the Home Landscape." Other presenters are Shane Cultra "What's New for 2009?" and Sandy Mason, "Tried and True Perennials". Cost is \$15 and includes refreshments, registration hand-outs, door prizes, and a chance at silent auction items. Sponsored by Coles County Extension MGs. Register by Feb. 23 using form at www.extension.uiuc.edu/coles. 217-345-7034.

February 28: Gardener's Pathway- "We're in a Green State of Mind". Kishwaukee College, Malta. The program includes a choice of 18 different workshops, keynote speaker Jack Pizzo- "Ecology and Us: Why Green Works", breakfast, lunch and vendors as well as a Master Gardener Q & A Help Desk. Session topics include rain gardens; "bugs"; vegetable gardening; native plants; roses; grasses; herbs and many more. Fee is \$50. Sponsored by the DeKalb County MGs and Kishwaukee College. Registration 815-825-2086 ext 204 or 311.

February 28: Joys of Gardening, Highland Community College, Freeport. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The keynote address, "Changes in Illinois Bird Communities", will be given by Mike Ward. Participants have their choice of 16 topics including butterfly gardening, nuisance wildlife management, roses, rain gardens, organic gardening and more. The day includes door prizes, a silent auction and a seed giveaway. Sponsored by Stephenson County MGs. 815-235-4125.

Important Dates

March 3-4: Small Fruit and Strawberry Schools, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon. Contact Bronwyn Aly, (618) 695-2444, baly@uiuc.edu

March 7: Gardener's Big Day, Spoon River College's Conference Center, Canton. Keynote speaker is Monica David- "Using Italian and Irish Garden Design Elements in Your Own Backyard". Workshops include: "What is That Darn Weed"; Hummingbirds; Mushroomrooms of Illinois; Rebirth of an Illinois River Wetland; garden photography and a demo on "Slow Food: From Italy to Your Table". Fee is \$29 and includes an herbal luncheon. Sponsored by Fulton MGs, Spoon River College and Spoon River Garden Club. 309-547-3711.

March 7: Gardeners Palette, John Wood Community College, Quincy. "Gardeners Go Green" is the theme of this year's popular event, with special emphasis on environmentally sustainable garden and lawn approaches. Fourteen presentations will be given by U of I educators and speakers from across the Midwest. Cost is \$40 and includes lunch, handouts and a vendor fair. Sponsored by the Adams-Brown MGs. Call 217-223-8380 or register online at www.extension.uiuc.edu/adams.

March 7: Know and Grow Workshop, Mt. Carroll Church of God. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year's workshop will feature local flavors along with traditional Hort workshop opportunities. A local lunch will be provided. Sponsored by the Carroll County MGs. 815-244-9444.

March 7: Home, Lawn and Garden Day, Central Catholic High School, 1201 Airport Road, Bloomington. The \$40 registration fee includes 3 breakout sessions, exhibitors, door prizes, lunch and a keynote talk by Anthony Kahtz. Mr Kahtz is the author of *Perennials for the Midwestern Gardens: Proven Plants for the Heartland*. Sponsored by the McLean County MGs. (309) 663-8306 or web.extension.uiuc.edu/mclean/

March 7-15: Chicago Flower Show, Navy Pier, Chicago. Designed theme gardens, garden displays, daily seminars, hands-on workshops and many exhibitors and vendors. For more information and schedules go to www.chicagoflower.com

March 14: Garden Day Workshop, Vermilion County. The day includes speakers, vendors, silent auction, door prizes and a special "hands-on" program by the Internet Masters titled "Gardening on the Web". Sponsored by Vermilion County MGs. 217-442-8615.

March 14: Ready, Set, Grow-Gardening Workshop, Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon. Sponsored by Lee, Ogle and Whiteside Master Gardeners.

March 14: Spring Garden Seminar, IL Valley Community College. There will be 20 break-out classes over four sessions; exhibits and vendors; lunch and snacks and a MG- Q & A desk. Cost \$35. Sponsored by the LaSalle County MGs. 815-433-0707 or www.extension.uiuc.edu/lasalle.

March 13-15: Sustainable with Style, Thornhill Education Center, Morton Arboretum, Lisle. Friday classes feature: The Authentic Garden; Tough & Lovely Plants for Dry Sites; Sustainable with Style Design Challenge and Putting Down Healthy Roots:Local Organic Food. Saturday classes include: New Designs for a New Generation; Incorporating Native Plants into Traditional Gardens; Water Wise Gardening and part two of Sustainable with Style. www.mortonarb.org

March 21: Gardener's Day, Western Illinois University. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sessions will include Butterfly Gardening; Plants and Pets; Shade Gardens; Irises; Turf Care; Curb Appeal; Ornamental Grasses; Herbs; Winter Interest in the Landscape; Perennial Maintenance; Landscaping those Difficult Spots and Gardening for All Ages. Cost is \$35. Sponsored by the McDonough County MGs. 309-837-3939.

March 21: Gardeners Day, U of I Extension Bld., IL State Fairgrounds, Springfield. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. with the first seminar at 8:45 a.m. Nine one-hour seminars will be offered in three sessions by U of I Extension specialists and local horticulture experts. Programs include: Tools- Our Third Gardening Hand; Rain Gardens- A Wise Way to Use Runoff; Organic Gardening; Composting; Street Side Planting; Herbal Bath Salts; Heirloom Plants- Flowers; Growing Culinary Herbs and Vegetable Gardening- Getting Started. Presented by Sangamon-Menard Unit MGs. Registration fee is \$8 in advance (before March 13) and \$10 at the door. www.extension.uiuc.edu/sangamonmenard.

March 28: Gardeners Day, Carlinville Lutheran Church, Carlinville. 8:30 am. Sponsored by the Macoupin County MGs.

April 2: "Using Native Plants and Controlling Honey-suckle", Monroe County Annex, Waterloo. The speakers are Carl and Pen Daubach, co-coordinators of the CLIFFTOP conservation group. 618-939-3434.



International MG Conference Registration closes Feb 15th

Regular registration for the International Master Gardener conference to be held at the Alexis Park Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada on March 22-26, 2009, closes on February

15th. Jeff Lowenfels founder of Plant-A-Row for the Hungry and Marvin Miller from Ball Horticulture will be the keynote speakers. A wide range of educational sessions and tours (both garden and tourist sites) are available. Other highlights include "Fit for Gardening" activities; Paint a Memory workshop; Master Gardener poster session; IMGC trade show, marketplace and silent auction and the presentation of National Search for Excellence award winners. To register or for more information on the conference visit <http://www.unce.unr.edu/imgc> .

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