September 16 - 18, 2010

Clock Tower Resort and Conference Center

Rockford, IL

We welcome our fellow Master Gardeners from Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota

Register online at our Master Gardener page web.extension.illinois.edu/mg
Thursday, September 16

5:45 am - 4:30 pm Tours
Choose from eight exciting tour opportunities offered on Thursday. All tours will leave from the Clock Tower Resort. The tour fee will include the transportation, entrance fee to gardens and lunch (all day tours only). Tour space is limited - sign up early.

7:00 am Registration Opens
6:00 - 8:30 pm Welcome Reception

Friday, September 17

Breakfast on your own
7:00 - 8:30 am Registration

8:30 - 10:00 am Welcome
Keynote Address: "Sugar, Sex and Poison; Shocking Plant Secrets Caught on Camera"

10:00 - 10:30 am Break, Vendors Open
10:30 - Noon Educational Session A
Noon - 1:30 pm Lunch, Vendors Open
1:30 - 3:00 pm Educational Session B
3:00 - 3:30 pm Break, Vendors Open
3:30 - 5:00 pm Educational Session C

5:30 - 6:30 pm Happy Hour
6:30 - 9:00 pm Awards Banquet for Illinois Master Gardeners
Everyone is welcome or Dinner on your own
Saturday, September 18

Breakfast on your own
7:00 - 8:30 am    Registration

8:30 - 10:00 am  Educational Session D
10:00 - 10:30 am Break, Vendors Open
10:30 - Noon     Educational Session E
Noon - 1:30 pm   Lunch, Vendors Open, Silent Auction Concludes
1:30 - 3:00 pm   Educational Session F

3:00 pm         Adjourn - Safe Travels to All

Conference FAQs.....

Registration Opens June 1, 2010
at web.extension.illinois.edu/mg

Registration Fees to be Posted Soon

Hotel Reservation:
Call the Clock Tower Resort & Conference Center
Toll-free 1-800-358-7666

Reserve before August 15
to receive the special conference room rates:
$70 for a single, double, triple, or quad
$110 for room and 4 passes to the onsite Coco Keys Water Park

Vendors onsite Friday and Saturday
Go to web.extension.illinois.edu/mg to become a vendor
Tour #1

Tour 1: The Prairie State
Includes stops at Nachusa Grasslands, John Deere Historic Site and Tim Lewis Native Garden. Tour leaves 8:00 a.m. and returns about 4:30 p.m. Lunch included.

Nachusa Grasslands
Steep sandstone outcrops descending into rocky meadows and streams made Nachusa Grasslands difficult to farm and saved large pieces of native prairie from the plow. The rolling landscape of the Grasslands is a mosaic of eleven different natural community types including dry prairie, tallgrass prairie, bur oak savanna, sand savanna, fen, sedge meadow, and streamside marsh. These high quality natural areas provide a unique opportunity to restore Illinois’ original landscape on a large scale. Much of the grandeur and ecological significance of Nachusa Grasslands derives from its large size, about 1300 acres. It is home to over 600 native prairie plant species, including rare plants listed on the Federal Endangered Species List, as well as many birds, insects and reptiles.

John Deere Historic Site
The John Deere Historic Site in grand Detour is the original Illinois homestead of John Deere and is the location where he built his first “self-scouring steel plow”. The home Deere built still stands, and the Historic Site was designated a Registered National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service, and a Historic Landmark of Agricultural Engineering by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

In the atmosphere of a friendly 19th century prairie village, informed tour guides provide an entertaining and educational perspective of life on the prairie. Exhibits include an archaeological dig site, John Deere’s Home, built in 1836, and the blacksmith shop with daily demonstrations. There is also a Visitor Center and Gift shop.

Tim Lewis Native Landscape
This 22 year old half acre yard and home started with the traditional lawn and non-native landscape but quickly developed into a model for those who would like to incorporate native plants into their home landscape. The owner began his journey into native plants with a small flower bed in the fall of 1991. Today the yard consists of a variety of native plant environments with over 100 species of plants. Participants will see two different types of rain gardens, a natural looking prairie plot, as well as savanna and shade gardens.
Tour 2: Local Foods

This tour includes stops at Beyer’s U-Pick, Phil’s Honey Farm, Famous Fossil Winery, Cedar Creek and Miller’s Country Cheese. Tour leaves 8:00 a.m. and returns about 4:30 p.m. Lunch included.

This tour will involve some walking for full enjoyment. We will be outside for a good portion of the tour and will be walking on turf and possibly uneven surfaces.

Harrison Market Garden/ Beyer’s U-Pick
Harrison Market Garden/ Beyer’s U-Pick is a subscription garden that uses organic methods. Weekly and bi-weekly subscriptions are available each year. Crops include asparagus, strawberries, raspberries, heirloom tomatoes and melons in addition to traditional summer fruits and vegetables.

Phil's Honey Farm
At Phil’s Honey Farm, Phil will provide a presentation about pollination, bees, hive care as well as allowing us a view of Taylor Creek Restoration. This is the largest wild-flower prairie restoration site in the US. Annually, they provide over 20,000 pounds of Black Eyed Susan seeds alone.

Famous Fossil Winery
Famous Fossil Winery was named after the many fossils found as the grapevines were planted. This certified Biodynamic vineyard is now home to over 12 varieties of red and white wine grapes. The winery, designed using green technology, features distinctive Illinois wines, local foods and an events room where we will attend a wine-tasting and lunch. There is inside as well as outside seating area for lunch.

Cedar Creek Organics
Cedar Creek Organics is Certified Organic attending farmer’s markets supplying strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, rhubarb as well as a variety of vegetables, poultry, eggs, milk and grains.

Miller’s Country Cheese
A vintage gas station has been renovated to recreate a traditional ice cream parlor. The facility is an ice cream, cheese and deli all in one charming step back in time. An extensive collection of antiquities including Coke memorabilia is on display.
Tour 3: Conservation and Development: A Delicate Balance

Tour includes stops at Distillery Conservation area, Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center, Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area; Edwards Apple Orchard and Piscasaw Fen Conservation Area. Tour leaves 8:00 a.m. and returns about 4:30 p.m. Lunch included.

Boone County Conservation District (BCCD) Distillery Conservation

Distillery Conservation Area is part of Kishwaukee Bottoms, located along the Kishwaukee River west of Belvidere. This area is undergoing major habitat restoration by the BCCD and affords an opportunity to see the different phases of the restoration work as well as learn how the BCCD worked with developers in the area to combine natural habitat with housing development and to handle storm water run-off. We will learn about the area’s ground-nesting birds and other wildlife. A visit to this site also provides an opportunity to learn about the effects of development on our rivers and streams. The Kishwaukee River has seriously eroded the road near the canoe launch at this site. Staff members from BCCD will explain what caused the erosion and the methods they used to correct the problem.

Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center

Heritage Gardens

Five different gardens represent and honor the four major ethnic groups of Euro-American origin that settled in Boone County. In addition, a Potawatomi garden represents the Indigenous People residing here during the 100 to 150 years just prior to the influx of the Euro-Americans in the mid-1800s. Each garden exhibits the cultural values and beliefs of the home region of the people who settled here. Along with the Yankee Garden, Potawatomi Garden, Norwegian Garden, German Garden, and Caledonia or Scottish Garden, one will find original restored or replica buildings which complement the pioneer and ethnic themes.

Rain Garden

Rain gardens are a planted depression that allows storm water runoff, from buildings and parking lots, the chance to soak into the ground instead of causing erosion and flooding. They can cut down on the amount of pollution reaching creeks and streams by up to 30 percent. View the recommended native plants that don’t require fertilizers and are more tolerant of local climate and soil conditions.

Demonstration Gardens

The Boone County Master Gardeners maintain several gardens at the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center: Kitchen, Color, Fragrance, Medicinal, Tea, Dye, and Everlasting.

Lunch/ Raptor Program

We plan to have a 45 minute raptor program provided by Hoo Haven at the Nature Center. After the program, we will have a catered lunch featuring heirloom vegetables from the Heritage Gardens.

Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area

Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area, located in northern Boone County, is a forested area with many rare trees and an abundance of native wildlife. We will visit the Illinois Nature Preserve area located within the Conservation Area to learn about restoration work being done there. Kinnikinnick has groves of white and red pines planted in the 1950s which are now nearing the end of their life cycle. The pines are not natural to the area and they inhibit the growth of native plants. This winter, many of these trees will be removed by a forester, with the lumber being used as biomass fuel to supplement coal. We will learn about how the trees have been selectively removed, with more of them being left near the edges of the conservation area, and learn about the beginnings of the restoration efforts.
Edwards Apple Orchard
A visit to Edwards Apple Orchard is a fall tradition for many northern Illinois families. We will stop here to give everyone the opportunity to purchase some afternoon refreshments—including cider and donuts—and to browse in the gift shop or stroll the grounds outside.

Piscasaw Fen Conservation Area
The Piscasaw fen is a unique area in northern Boone County recently acquired by the BCCD. It is a wetland area with many plant and animal species which are quite rare in northern Illinois. Because the land is so fragile, the BCCD did not want to bring in equipment to keep the paths mowed and to keep the weeds down. So they purchased four goats that live at the site during the growing season to keep the weeds in check.

Tour 4: Glorious Gardens
This tour will highlight Sinississippi Rose Garden, Anderson Japanese Rose gardens and the Wesley Willows Community Garden. Tour leaves at 8:00 a.m. and returns about 11:30 a.m.

Sinississippi Rose Garden
The Sinississippi Rose Garden was developed in 1924-25 by the Rockford Park District. Reconstructed four times—most recently in 2006—the garden contains approximately 2,000 rose plants with 58 varieties represented. About half of the roses are hybrid tea and floribunda roses; the remainder are hardy shrub roses, including 5 varieties of Canadian roses and 15 varieties of Griffith Buck roses. The garden is an All-American Rose Selections demonstration garden and serves as a Master Gardener project site. The garden also contains one of the few working large floral clocks in the country.

Anderson Japanese Garden
Anderson Japanese Gardens are a result of John Anderson’s travels to Japan in 1966 where he became enthralled with Japanese people and culture. A new home property in Rockford was envisioned as a site for a Japanese style garden of serenity and peace. Designed and built by Hoichi Kurisu, the 12-acre site contains 2 gardens, several Sukiya style buildings, Guest House, Tea House, Azumaya and Gift Shop. Anderson Japanese Gardens is ranked the number one Japanese Garden in North America and Europe.

Wesley Willows Community Garden
The Wesley Willows Retirement Community in 2009 set aside a half-acre site to develop a community garden for residents desires to grow vegetables and flowers. The community garden proved to be an attraction and gathering spot not only for gardeners but for other residents as well as visitors to the campus. Planning in conjunction with the Rockford Park District and guided by a committee including 4 Master Gardeners, the site includes a central pavilion, storage facility, raised garden beds and a water supply. The garden supplies produce for an annual Wesley Willows Gardeners’ Market as well as for each gardener’s use.
Tour 5: Glorious Gardens

This tour features two gardens- the Rotary Gardens in Janesville Wisconsin and the Rosecrance Healing Gardens. Tour leaves at 8:00 a.m. and returns about 11:30 a.m.

Rotary Gardens, Janesville, Wisconsin

Rotary Gardens consists of 18 distinct areas across 20 acres. Rotary Gardens is home to many dramatic and themed gardens. Some have an international focus, such as the Japanese, Scottish, French Formal, Italian, and English Cottage Gardens. Also included are less formally structured gardens, including one of very few Fern and Moss gardens recognized by the Hardy Fern Foundation in the United States, as well as Shade, Prairie and Woodland Gardens. The tour will be led by Horticulture Educators, and may not cover all the above areas due to our limited time.

Rosecrance Griffin Williamson Campus

The Rosecrance Center is an 80-bed inpatient treatment center for adolescents with drug and alcohol problems. The healing garden was designed by the man who designed Anderson Gardens. It is a healing garden with a Japanese influence. The kids use the garden every day. It is 5-6 acres, with a 1 ½ mile walking path. As part of their experiential curriculum, they use a horticulture curriculum involving therapy in the garden. Parts of the tour are on uneven terrain.

Tour 6: Glorious Gardens

Anderson Gardens, La Paloma and Midway Village will be featured on this tour. Bus departs at 1:00 p.m. and returns at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Anderson Gardens

Although the Anderson Gardens site is only 12 acres, the traditional Japanese gardens are planned to create a feeling of a much larger space. Winding paths, spectacular water features, the tea house, strategically placed rock formations and exquisite plantings provide a serene and peaceful trip reminiscent of the Edo period of the 16th to the 19th centuries. The gift shop offers a wide variety of Japanese items, garden ware, lanterns, origami and garden books. Restrooms are available.

La Paloma

An award winning private garden surpasses all expectations. Wide paved pathways (totally handicapped accessible) lead visitors through delightful gardens, water features and surprises around each corner. This site rivals and exceeds many public gardens. This garden is not often open to visitors and we are lucky to be invited for this visit.

Midway Village

Midway Village is home to seven different heritage gardens including Victorian, heirloom and kitchen. Take a step back in time to visit rural living in the 1890-1910 era as the 135 acre museum campus depicts the life and customs of the period.
Tour 7: Glorious Gardens
This tour features the Klehm Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and the Tinker’s Heirloom Gardens. Bus departs at 1:00 p.m. and returns around 4:30 p.m.

Klehm Arboretum
Klehm Arboretum and Botanical Garden is a 155 acre “living museum” filled with spectacular gardens and rare trees. There’s beauty in every season from fragrant magnolia trees in spring and a butterfly garden in summer to the brilliant colors of fall and snow-capped evergreens in winter. A paved path of 1.8 miles and numerous secondary chipped trails make the beauty of Klehm accessible to all ages and needs.

Tinker’s Heirloom Garden
Using photographs and Robert Tinker’s journal entries, the Victorian Rose Garden, originally created in 1890, was restored in 1998, and contains 23 varieties of antique roses and plantings historically correct to the 1890-1915 period. Other gardens on the property include the Railroad Garden located between the suspension bridge and the railroad tracks (restoration began in 2007), and the Tinker Vegetable Garden that contains heirloom vegetables and other gardens on the grounds historically appropriate for the period of 1870-1915.

Tour 8: Early Morning Bird Hike
Bus departs at 5:45 a.m. and returns around 7:15 a.m.

Start your day with a bird hike at the Boone County Conservation District’s (BCCD) Distillery Conservation Area, located along the Kishwaukee River west of Belvidere. Staff from the BCCD will pick us up in their minibus at the Clock Tower for the short drive to the Distillery site. This area is undergoing major habitat restoration by the BCCD and affords an opportunity to see many types of birds and other wildlife. We will likely see birds of prey and may spot some herons. The area is home to a variety of ground-nesting birds as well as birds of the forest. So grab your binoculars and/or camera and join us. A light breakfast is included with the tour. Maximum 12 participants.
As we all know, plants are at the base of both the human and non-human food chain. Everything eats them directly or indirectly, which may or may not be a good thing as far as plants are concerned. Because they do not move around, it is easy to forget that plants are not helpless. They have evolved an incredible arsenal of chemicals, camouflage, spines, hairs, and waxes to discourage herbivores. On the other hand, they spend a huge amount of their energy on pollen, nectar, edible fruits, and sugary root exudates designed to attract and nourish animals, insects, fungi and bacteria so they can perform services such as pollination, seed dispersal, defense, and nutrient acquisition. It is a carefully balanced natural economy and community based on the products of photosynthesis that is amazing in its complexity and efficiency. Strengthening this natural economy through sound horticultural and agricultural practices is in essence what the organic movement is all about. In this talk, Bill Cullina will show how this world of pollen, poisons, pigments, pheromones, sugars and sex translates to sound organic practices we all can benefit from.
Friday, September 17 - Workshops

Session A: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
- Managing Home Lawn Headaches- Bruce Spangenberg
- Architectural Aristocrats: The Best of the Ornamental Grasses- Jeff Epping
- The Edible Garden- Mark Dwyer
- Restoration and Monitoring Results of the Nygren Wetland Preservation- Greg Keilback
- Threatened and Endangered Flora of Northern Illinois- Dr Steven Hill

Session B: 1:30 - 3:00 pm
- Diagnosing Plant Problems Part 1- Joe Boggs, Jim Chatfield, Erik Draper
- Rose Gardens for Every Season- Jeff Epping
- Landscape Design for Energy Efficiency- Mark Dwyer
- Botanical Latin for Gardeners- Dr. Steven Hill
- Top Performing Low Maintenance Annuals- Pam Bennett
- Peonies- Roy Klehm
- CSA Cooking Demonstration - Randy Smith

Session C: 3:30 - 5:00 pm
- Diagnosing Plant Problems Part 2- Joe Boggs, Jim Chatfield, Erik Draper
- Rain Gardens: Combining Beauty and Water Quality- John Church
- eXtension Gardens, Lawns and Landscapes and the Extension Master Gardener Blog - Karen Jeannette
- From Emerald Carpet to Amber Wave: Serene and Sensuous Plants for the Garden- Bill Cullina
- Waterscaping for the Soft Side- Tim Seigner
- Four-star Plants! An Overview of the Chicago Botanic Garden's Trials- Richard Hawke
**Saturday, September 18 - Workshops**

**Session D: 8:30 - 10:00 am**
- Diagnosing Plant Problems Part 1 - Joe Boggs, Jim Chatfield, Erik Draper
- Using Online Resources - google, feeder pages, social media sites - Karen Jeannette
- Gardening Faux Pas: 10 Commandments for Great Gardening Mistakes - Denny Schrock
- Clutter, Chaos or Class: Using Creativity Effectively in Garden Design - Ed Lyon
- Photographing Wildflowers and Gardens - Tim Lewis
- The Organic Vegetable Garden - Rich Tobiasz

**Session E: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**
- Diagnosing Plant Problems Part 2 - Joe Boggs, Jim Chatfield, Erik Draper
- Bringing New Plants to Your Garden in 2010, 2011 and Beyond - John Gaydos
- Designs and Customs of Medieval Monastic Herb Gardens - Father Dominic Garramone
- Landscaping with Native Trees and Shrubs - Molly Fifield Murray
- Gardening in Spite of Your Aches and Pains - Barb Larson
- Small Space Gardening...How to Achieve Maximum Yield with Minimum Space - Bill Shores

**Session F: 1:30 - 3:00 pm**
- All About Alliums: 20 Weeks of Bloom from Ornamental Onions - Denny Schrock
- Garden Art - Joel Barczak
- Perennial Plant Communities: How to Plant with Respect to Style, Timing and Maintenance - Roy Diblik
- Rock Gardens and the Plants for Beginners - Ed Lyon
- Healthy Soil, Healthy Plant - Rich Tobiasz
- More Than a Big Blue Spruce: Garden Conifers - Barb Larson
Is Danger Lurking in Your Landscape? A Review of Toxic Plants in the Home and Garden

It may come as a surprise to many gardeners, but poisonous plants are found in our homes, landscapes, gardens and natural areas. Plants are complicated biochemically, with an array of phytochemicals that can have varying degrees of human toxicity depending on the amount consumed and the type of chemical. A natural part of plant physiology, these chemicals are often considered defense mechanisms, deterring insect and mammal browsing, but they can also be anti-fungal or bacterial, helping the plant to ward off diseases. This informative session will highlight some of the more common poisonous plants, the degree of threat they represent, the chemistry and poisons involved, and the effects on people and pets. It will provide some practical insight and common sense approaches for our gardening relationships with these beautiful, but sometimes threatening plants.

Managing Home Lawn Headaches

Lawn problems can be a challenge to troubleshoot and solve. This session will address symptoms, underlying causes, and solutions to common home lawn headaches such as crabgrass, group ivy, grubs, thatch, potential diseases, and shade issues. Both chemical and cultural management options will be discussed.

Architectural Aristocrats: The Best of the Ornamental Grasses

No other group of plants has had the impact that the ornamental grasses have had on our gardens in recent years. Jeff Epping has incorporated a wide palette of ornamental grasses into Olbrich’s designs over the years and he will share his experiences with you on the best performing species and cultivars that you can emulate in your own garden.

The Edible Garden

We all have expectations of our plants. We want colorful flowers, interesting foliage, scent, wildlife value, etc. Why not select plants not only for beauty but for function as well? Learn about many ornamental edibles; those plants that look good but also have a use in our kitchens. These plants can be incorporated in to our existing landscapes, flower beds and containers and shouldn't just be relegated to the vegetable garden.

Restoration and Monitoring Results of the Nygren Wetland Preserve

Workshop attendees will be given an overview of the restoration process of the Nygren Wetland Preserve. Topics will cover both the successes and trials that staff and volunteers have the opportunity to experience, with lots of photos and stories as well as answering any questions attendees may have.

Threatened and Endangered Flora of Northern Illinois

The seminar will concentrate on some of the many Threatened and Endangered plants that grow in Illinois generally north of the Illinois River based on the most recent listing from the Endangered Species Board in October 2009. Perspectives on these statewide and regionally will also be provided, with general information on what the status categories indicate as well the status of the plants according to federal and other national agencies. Whenever possible, the cultivation of these species will be mentioned as well as laws governing their protection and some of the restoration and conservation projects that are in place regarding their protection in the state.
Diagnosing Plant Problems
Diagnosing Plant Problems are difficult but this 3 hour workshop will teach you the keys to proper identification of plant problems. Learn the steps the Tree Amigos use to diagnose plant challenges in this entertaining session. Participants will register for both sessions.

Rose Gardens for Every Season
Join Jeff Epping for an in-depth look at Olbrich’s new Rose Garden. Epping and his staff created a rose garden that showcases hardy, disease-resistant shrub and climbing roses. However, this garden is about more than just roses, it’s about creating a garden that looks great in every season. See how Epping combines bulbs, annuals, perennials, vines, shrubs and small-scale trees in a spectacular Midwestern rose garden.

Landscape Design for Energy Efficiency
Properly selected and positioned landscape plants can not only make the home or business look good but can also help reduce both summer cooling and winter heating costs. We will discuss the selection and proper location of hardy, aesthetic trees, shrubs and other landscape materials with intent of maximizing energy efficiency of the adjacent structure.

Botanical Latin for Gardeners
This seminar will present many of the scientific names used for plants, both wild and cultivated, along with their meanings and some history regarding the names. A case will be made that scientific names are nothing to fear and far more useful than common names. Latin, being a ‘deceased’ international language is used world-wide for plants, and even publications otherwise in Chinese or any other world language requires that these names be written in Latin characters, making many foreign works [as well as the Internet!] more useful to us. Amusing examples of Latin names will be presented as well as many of the common ones that most of us already know - in order to introduce with wide diversity of the interesting names. This will not be a Latin grammar lesson! but there will be vocabulary involved.

Top Performing Low Maintenance Annuals
These are not your grandma’s annuals! The plants we have access to today are low maintenance and super easy to care for. Pam shares the results of her field trials in Ohio in this high-energy, fast-paced presentation on the best annuals for your garden.

Peonies
This session will include information on how peonies are produced, how gardeners can use them in their gardens, their use as cutflowers, interesting stories of historic people who changed the peony world, all about woody or tree peonies and the latest in rock garden peonies and some new releases.

CSA Cooking Demonstration
Randall Smith will talk about an easy approach to cooking seasonally. It has become so easy for us to grab whatever we want from supermarket shelves that we have become entirely disconnected from our food geography and seasonality. CSAs and farmer’s markets allow us to return to a more significant and interesting way of eating and cooking. He will prepare several dishes out of ingredients in his CSA delivery for that week and demonstrate a few simple techniques that allow us to more fully enjoy our seasonal offerings.
Diagnosing Plant Problems -
A continuation of the class from Session B. Register for both sessions.

Rain Garden: Combining Beauty and Water Quality
Workshop will focus on the value and use of rain gardens to help offset the volume of stormwater from home and lawn areas, while providing an aesthetically pleasing feature in the home landscape. Benefits, planning and implementation will be discussed.

eXtension Gardens, Lawns, and Landscapes and the Extension Master Gardener Blog
eXtension's Gardens, Lawns, and Landscapes resource area at http://extension.org/horticulture officially launched in February 2008. With the goal of becoming a national Extension resource supporting consumer horticulture and the Extension Master Gardener program, ten commonly themed horticultural resource areas and thousands of frequently asked gardening questions imported from state databases across the country were published to highlight the best of the best gardening information throughout the Cooperative Extension service. One of the next milestones for Gardens, Lawns, and Landscapes is the development of a national Extension Master Gardener blog.

In this session we will cover features and resources of the eXtension Gardens, Lawns, and Landscapes website and the Extension Master Gardener blog that Master Gardeners can use to engage in the national Extension Master Gardener community.

From Emerald Carpet to Amber Wave: Serene and Sensuous Plants for the Garden
Ferns and mosses are the canvas on which nature paints its portraits. Whether it is a lush forest floor, boggy carpet, or rustling prairie, these plants are there, weaving in and around and knitting together their chosen tapestry with a soft, tangible grace that is so subtle that it is overpowering when you really, truly stop and see. Stripping away names and associations, gardens and landscapes are fusions of form, color, and texture. The three act in concert to create spaces, moods, and aesthetic impressions. Though we tend to focus on color, it is form and texture that really create spaces and give them tone and mood. In a sense, color is candy for the eye, while texture and form are the starch and protein - richer, more complex, and enduring. William Cullina will introduce you to some of his favorite texturally rich and visually delectable native ferns and mosses.

Waterscaping for the Soft Side
This session will discuss waterscaping on the soft side. It will touch base on the need for filtration and stratification in a water feature. Using mechanical, biological, and aeration as tools for healthy water. The main emphasis will be on creating a natural looking water feature by bringing plants and/or grasses to the water’s edge. This gives your water feature a more natural edge as if it wasn’t man made. Tim will show the many different types of plants that can be utilized in our area.

Four-star Plants! An Overview of the Chicago Botanic Garden's Trials
Field observation, years of experience and a passion for plants - all blend together in the Chicago Botanic Garden's Plant Evaluation Program. For 25 years, this program has been dedicated to the scientific study of herbaceous and woody plants. The Garden’s Plant Evaluation Program is one of the largest and most diverse in the nation, and also one of the few programs in the United States that formally evaluates perennials. It received the Award for Program Excellence from the American Public Garden Association in 2008. The goal of the program is to determine which plants are superior for gardens in the Upper Midwest. Richard Hawke will discuss the plant evaluation process and present a variety of four-star plants, including new selections and old favorites.
**Workshop D Descriptions**

**Diagnosing Plant Problems**
Diagnostics are difficult but this 3 hour workshop will teach you the keys to proper identification of plant problems. Learn the steps the Tree Amigos use to diagnose plant challenges in this entertaining session. Participants will register for both sessions.

**Using Online resources - google, feeder pages, social media sites, etc.**
Would you like to spend more time in the garden and less time finding garden information? With the help of free web aggregator tools, such as Igoogle or Netvibes, you can build your own customized home page to bring you the information from your favorite Extension resources as they are released. This means you'll no longer have to surf the web to see if your favorite and most trusted sites are updated. These updates will come to you via your own customized home page. This session will take participants through creating a customized home page using Igoogle, setting this page to launch when you open your Web browser (e.g. Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari), and where to find Extension information feeds and tools to add to your customized page. Bringing your own laptop to follow along is encouraged, but NOT required. All participants will receive instructional handouts to take what was learned during the session back home.

**Gardening Faux Pas: 10 Commandments for Great Gardening - Mistakes**
We've all made 'em. This humorous photographic look at common landscape design and maintenance mistakes may hit close to home. You'll learn how to avoid the mistakes in the first place, and how to correct the problems once they arise to make your yard more livable and easy to care for.

**Clutter, Chaos or Class: Using Creativity Effectively in Garden Design**
Says Ed Lyon, "I have an avid gardener friend who is so proud of a garden the rest of us call 'eclectic'. Beware, that's a kind way of saying 'cluttered mess". Garden non-plant ornamentation can add visual interest and livability to a garden design but where is the line between kitsch and class? This becomes even more critical today as homeowners are designing outdoor living and entertainment areas rather than just gardens. Ed has had the opportunity to visit public and private gardens across the US and will use real-life examples to demonstrate adding panache while avoiding clutter and chaos.

**Photographing Wildflowers and Gardens**
This session will show you how to capture the beauty of native wildflowers and gardens with your digital camera. We will cover the basics of good photographs using simple procedures that are easy to remember. You will be able to go out and start taking better photographs right after the conference.

**The Organic Vegetable Garden**
After an introduction to organic culture and a brief review of soil, seed and growing conditions, this class will focus on the strategy and tactics of organic weed, disease and pest control in the vegetable garden. Topics will include plant resistance, cultural practices, mulches, the use of compost, companion planting, beneficial insects, and organic sprays.
Diagnosing Plant Problems-
A continuation of the class from Session D. Register for both sessions.

Bringing New Plants to Your Garden in 2010, 2011 and Beyond
Ever wonder how plants are introduced and what makes one plant different than another. John Gaydos will discuss Proven Winners Roadmap to new varieties, the trialing process and the end results: the new introductions for 2010 and 2011.

Designs and Customs of Medieval Monastic Herb Gardens
According to the Rule of Saint Benedict, every monastery must have a garden. Discover the history of monastic herb gardens, as Fr Dominic shares designs and photos of medieval and modern gardens, and shares stories of how gardening has been and continues to be an integral part of monasteries.

Landscaping with Native Trees and Shrubs
Trees and shrubs native to the area provide food and shelter to native birds and are well adapted to environmental conditions. This session will provide information about woody native plants that are suitable for the urban and suburban landscape.

Gardening in Spite of Your Aches and Pains
Gardening is great exercise for the body and mind as we age. But sometimes physical limitations make gardening difficult. Learn tools and techniques that can help you keep gardening even with arthritis or other trials of getting older.

Small Space Gardening.... How to Achieve Maximum Yield with Minimum Space
Urban and suburban spaces can be productive, ornamental and sustainable, providing residents with food, healthy soils and pleasing greens spaces. Bill Shores will discuss ways to transform urban spaces into decorative and bountiful food gardens. Through a visual tour of Bill's ongoing garden projects in Chicago we will discuss site analysis, identifying and improving microclimates, organic soil building and urban composting systems, edible landscaping, kitchen gardens, commercial food gardens, container gardening, deck and rooftop food gardens.
All About Alliums: 20 Weeks of Bloom from Ornamental Onions
What's not to love about ornamental onions? They’re beautiful, easy to grow, and practically pest-proof. By selecting different varieties you can have blooms from early spring through fall. This presentation will also show you how to effectively combine alliums with other perennials for show-stopping garden displays.

Garden Art
The use of garden accents, decorative pieces and various objects of art—traditional and avant-garde will be shared.

Perennial Plant Communities: How to Plant with Respect to Style, Timing, Maintenance
This workshop is suggested for any gardener wanting to learn how to combine basic perennial plants and ornamental grasses in manageable garden spaces. Diblik will encourage participants to use perennial plants he calls buddy plants and create planting combinations that work well together. He calls them plant communities and will explain how to design garden segments for the home garden as well as how to combine these plant communities in larger planting beds. Learn how to develop plant communities based on garden style, timing of bloom and maintenance requirements.

Rock Gardens and the Plants for the Beginner
The term rock garden can take on many facets depending on how it is used. In the strictest sense, it is used to describe gardens representative of alpine regions, where purists attempt to grow sensitive alpine plants out of their natural element. In the broadest sense, it can be any garden planted among rocks. In any case, most of the time it does involve dwarf and miniature plants, opening up a whole new plant palette. Ed Lyon, who has been rock gardening for a number of years, will tackle rock gardening for the beginner, showing variations in the middle that may work for you. The class will also deal with container rock gardens, such as troughs. Whether you are looking to expand your garden horizon to include miniature landscapes, are looking for ways to garden in restricted space, want to learn more about dwarf and miniature plants, or simply love gardening with rock as a focus, you'll find what you are looking for here.

Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants
Proponents of organic culture believe that a healthy living soil provides plants with the more than just N, P and K. This class will focus on producing and maintaining a healthy living soil utilizing sustainable organic practices. Topics will include the science of compost, use of manures, cover crops, fallow, tilling practice and what the prairie, forest and weeds tell us about nutrient deficiency, all with the goal of producing healthy plants that will resist disease and insect attacks.

More than a Big Blue Spruce: Garden Conifers
Don't limit your landscape to blue spruce and yews. Learn about the diversity of size, shape and colors available in conifers and how you can use them in your garden.
Speaker Profiles

**Joel Barczak**
Joel is co-owner of Blumen Gardens in Sycamore, Illinois. What started in 1989 in his backyard has expanded into a large indoor/outdoor retail establishment. His backyard plant nursery was the catalyst from which Joel’s horticultural endeavors quickly grew. His dream of over 20 years ago was his inspiration for his business today.

**Pam Bennett**
Pam is the State Master Gardener volunteer Coordinator for Ohio and Horticulture Educator and Director for Ohio State University Extension in Clark County. Pam specializes in herbaceous ornamental plant trials and evaluates more than 200 varieties of annuals yearly and presents programs on annuals and perennials as well as other landscape topics. She oversees the Gateway Learning Gardens, a 5 acre demonstration/teaching garden and is the President of the Friends of the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden.

**Joe Boggs**
Joe Boggs is district horticulture specialist and county agent with the Ohio State University Extension, Cincinnati. He specializes in landscape entomology, IPM and biological control of insect and mite pests.

**Dr. Anthony Bratsch**
Dr. Tony Bratsch provides leadership in horticulture programming for Extension units in the east central and southern Illinois regions. Tony is based at the Effingham Extension Center, where he is the horticultural technical support and "answer" person for extension staff in 25 counties. His educational program offerings include ornamental horticulture: turf, shrubs, and tree selection and care, as well as providing expertise in vegetable and fruit growing to home gardeners. He also supports commercial landscape, nursery and garden centers in the region, and works with these industries to diagnose production problems and develops training and materials to assist this industry.

**Jim Chatfield**
Jim Chatfield is an assistant state specialist and district specialist with the Ohio State University Extension, Wooster. He focuses on proper plant selection, plant problem diagnostics, crabapple evolution research and plant disease prevention.

**Bill Cullina - Keynote Speaker**
Currently Bill is the Director of Horticulture/Plant Curator for one of North America's newest and most exciting public gardens, The Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, Maine. A well known author and recognized authority on North American native plants, Cullina lectures on a variety of subjects to garden and professional groups and writes for popular and technical journals. His books include *Wildflowers, Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines, Understanding Orchids, Native Ferns, Mosses, and Grasses,* and most recently, *Understanding Perennials,* published in 2009. He and his wife Melissa live with their three young children on Southport Island along the central Maine Coast.
**John Church**

John Church provides leadership in natural resource-related programming for rural and urban areas of northern Illinois, networking with locally based conservation-related agencies and groups. Soil conservation, water quality and land use are the primary areas of focus, including more specific programs in stormwater management, farmland preservation, land use planning, soil management, natural area protection, wildlife management and related topics. John’s programming emphasis spans the spectrum of urban to rural issues. While based at the Rockford Extension Center as an educator of Natural Resources Management covering the northern Illinois area from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River.

**Roy Diblik**

Plantsman Roy Diblik is well known in the garden world. He co-founded Northwind Perennial Farm in 1991; they specialize in growing perennial plants, natives and ornamental grasses. Among Diblik’s accomplishments is his involvement in the creation of Millennium Park’s Lurie Garden in Chicago, Illinois, and his propagation of many plants.

**Erik Draper**

Erik Draper is a commercial horticulture extension agent and instructor with the Ohio State University Extension, Burton. He conducts research on crabapples, conducts training on plant triage and teaches proper horticultural pruning, mulching and plant installation practices.

**Mark Dwyer**

Mark Dwyer has been the Director of Horticulture at Janesville’s Rotary Botanical Gardens for 12 years. He has degrees in landscape architecture (University of Illinois - Champaign/Urbana) and urban forestry (UW - Stevens Point). He has worked previously at Fernwood Botanic Garden (Niles, MI) and as a landscape designer. Mark’s passion is to select, grow, observe, evaluate, photograph and otherwise enjoy all type of plants.

**Jeff Epping**

Jeff Epping has been Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Botanical Gardens since 1994. He oversees the horticultural operations and garden designs of over ten display gardens, show-casing the best garden worthy plants for south-central Wisconsin. Epping and his staff have practiced and preached sustainable gardening for years, which is reflected in their environmentally friendly cultural practices and innovative garden designs. Jeff has traveled to and photographed gardens throughout the U.S., U.K., South of France and Thailand and regularly lectures throughout the Midwest on landscape plants and designs for northern gardens. Many of his photos have been seen in regional journals, nationally recognized gardening books and professional horticultural publications.

**Father Dominic Garramone**

Father Dominic Garramone, OSB joined the community of Saint Bede Abbey in 1983. He is the head of the Religion department at Saint Bede Academy and teaches church history and Christian doctrine. He was the host of the PBS cooking show "Breaking Bread with Father Dominic" from 1999 to 2001, and has written five cookbooks. He will be releasing the first of a series of children's books in September: *Brother Jerome and the Angels in the Bakery*, published by Reedy Press. Fr. Dom got his start in gardening from his grandmother, "who could grow tomatoes in the cracks of a sidewalk" and when not baking or teaching can usually be found in the abbey herb garden.
**John Gaydos**

John Gaydos is the director of Promotion, and Product Development for Proven Winners, an international cooperative of plant breeders and producers. Gaydos has more than 40 years of experience in the nursery/greenhouse industry and joined Proven Winners in July, 1997. He is responsible for public relations, promotion and the development and trialing of new products.

Prior to joining the Proven Winners group, his career history includes 16 years as grower / general greenhouse manager of one of the top 25 garden centers in North America, 7 years as a grower in one of the largest wholesale production facilities in the Midwest, and beginning with 8 years of general greenhouse labor in a small ‘mom & pop' florist/greenhouse in Ohio.

John also was associated with a consulting firm that specializes in education and training in the field of communication and business development. In this endeavor, Gaydos worked both outside the horticultural industry as well as within.

**Richard Hawke**

Richard Hawke is the Chicago Botanic Garden's Plant Evaluation Manager, and is responsible for the comparative evaluation of over 9,000 plants representing 1,000 taxa of herbaceous perennials, vines, shrubs and small trees. He is the author of *Plant Evaluation Notes*, writes for numerous horticulture publications and teaches frequently at the Garden. Richard recently received the Perennial Plant Association's Academic Award for teaching excellence.

**Dr. Steven Hill**

Steve joined the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign in 1994 as a field botanist and plant systematist. His primary duty at the Survey is to seek out and conduct field studies on threatened and endangered plants and higher quality natural plant communities in areas to be developed by IDOT. This is followed up with extensive reports. Steve especially enjoys the detective work involved in finding and studying rare plants and he is very active in conserving and propagating them. He puts his botanical education to good work in his main hobby, gardening.

**Karen Jeannette**

Karen Jeannette is a research fellow at the University of Minnesota. Her roles include providing horticultural instructional, media, and research support for consumer horticulture-related projects in the Department of Horticultural Science. She is also currently active as content coordinator for the national eXtension resource area: Gardens, Lawns, and Landscapes, and as content support for all eXtension communities of practice. In these capacities, her recent research and outreach activities include exploring and using online social media tools and strategies to facilitate Extension community outreach and engagement.

**Greg Keilback**

Greg Keilback is the site manager at the Carl and Myrna Nygren Wetland Preserve, a property of the Natural Land Institute. He is responsible for developing management plans, conducting restoration activities such as burning, seeding, and chemical application, collecting data and monitoring plant and wildlife populations, and managing volunteer crews on the preserve and at other NLI properties. In his spare time, Keilback enjoys canoeing, woodworking, volunteering with local conservation education organizations, and landscaping his own property with native species.
Speaker Profiles

Roy Klehm

Mr. Klehm represents the fourth generation of the Klehm family to work as nurserymen in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. He is the co-founder and vice president of Beaver Creek Nursery, Inc. and Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm and Nursery. Roy has introduced many new plant varieties over the years including woody introductions as well as herbaceous plants, many of which are daylilies, peonies and hosta. He has worked with breeders to introduce some of the best shade trees, crabapples, magnolias and lilacs in the industry.

Barb Larson

Barb Larson is Horticulture Educator/Associate Professor for University of Wisconsin Extension. Barb works with the Master Gardeners, youth, community groups and commercial horticulturists to green and grow Southeastern Wisconsin. She joined Wisconsin Extension in 2004 after 13 years with University of Illinois Extension in Winnebago County.

Tim Lewis

Tim worked for Camera Craft for several years before moving on to Barber-Colman as an industrial photographer. He taught hundreds of people basic photography through the YMCA, the Winnebago County 4H and other workshops. Tim is past president of the local Rockford Lens and Shutter Club, Wild Ones, a national director of Wild Ones, and president of Four Rivers Environmental Coalition.

Ed Lyon

Ed is Director of the Allen Centennial Gardens in Madison, Wisconsin, a position he has held since 2008. His first degree is from Cornell University in Agricultural Economics and Animal Science. In 1997 he returned to school and worked toward a MS in Horticulture at UW-Madison under the direction of Dr. Dennis Stimart, who was in charge of the Allen Centennial Gardens. He worked in the Gardens while pursuing the graduate degree and decided to focus his studies on public garden administration. Since then, Ed has served as Symposia & Special Programs Coordinator for Chicago Botanic Garden, Director of Education for Olbrich Botanical Gardens and most recently, Executive Director for the Rotary Botanical Gardens. He also writes and speaks for both public and professional audiences across five Midwestern states. For almost 10 years Ed assisted in a specialty nursery and has past experience as a greenhouse manager.

Molly Fifield Murray

Molly has been an advocate for landscaping with native plants since receiving her master's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Wisconsin in 1978. After spending many years as a garden designer, she has been the outreach and education manager at the UW-Madison Arboretum since 1993. Molly has spoken around the world about restoring natural habitats on school grounds with the Earth Partnership for Schools program. She is a frequent speaker for garden clubs, Wild Ones organizations, and environmental education conferences.

Dr. Denny Schrock

Dr. Denny Schrock joined Meredith Publishing in 2002, and has since edited more than 20 gardening books. He currently serves as editor of Landscape Solutions and Beds & Borders magazines and provides garden content for the BHG.com website. Denny is a past extension horticulture specialist and state coordinator of Master Gardener programs. He is a self-described plant nerd with a low-maintenance landscape that features more than 1500 different perennials, trees, and shrubs on his half-acre suburban Des Moines, IA lot.
**Bill Shores**

Bill has been involved in small-scale, intensive gardening and food production for the past 17 years. Bill specializes in space-efficient gardening systems suited to the urban/suburban environment such as container gardens, indoor gardens, raised beds, rooftop gardens, raised beds and intensively planted small space in-ground gardens, season extension and plant propagation techniques. Currently, Bill manages the Rick Bayless Organic Garden in Chicago where he grows salad greens, herbs, tomatoes and Chile peppers in a for Rick's restaurant, Topolobampo.

**Tim Siegner**

Tim Siegner is the owner, designer, and creator of water features at Natural Water Gardens Inc. Tim has been creating water features all over the US for 25 years. His main emphasis is in the Midwest, building commercial and residential, indoor or outdoor features. Tim has a background in natural earth ponds, fish hatcheries, water gardens, KOI ponds, and anything that involves water. In his tenure in this field, Tim has been Aquascape and Savio certified, become a member of NAPP and the University of Hard Knox.

**Randy Smith**

Randall Smith is Executive Chef at the Clock Tower Resort in Rockford, IL. He has been an advocate and spokesman for local sustainable farming, CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture), and farmer's markets in Wisconsin and Illinois. He is currently working on a book on the subject due to be released in November 2010.

**Bruce Spangenberg**

Bruce is currently a horticulture instructor at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake and is also Horticulture Department Chair. He teaches a number of courses in the curriculum and was named MCC Faculty of the Year in 2007. Bruce was with University of Illinois Extension in northern Illinois as an Extension Horticulture Educator for several years, including a county-based position in McHenry County and then regional positions at Grayslake and Rockford Centers. While with Extension he authored a number of newsletters and informational pieces for home gardeners and commercial audiences, including the popular Lawn Talk fact sheet series found in the Hort Corner of the Illinois Extension Urban Programs website. He also writes a popular weekly gardening column that has run in The Northwest Herald newspaper since 1983.

**Rich Tobiasz**

Rich Tobiasz grew up in Chicago gardening with his "Busia" (grandmother). Today, he lives on a small market farm in Spring Grove, Illinois with his wife Wendy, their goats, sheep, chickens, orchard and gardens. By day he is the Spring Grove Fire Chief, by night and on weekends a Master Gardener from McHenry County. He is currently completing his Master's Degree in Crop Sciences from the University of Illinois. His specialty is organic fruit and vegetable production.
Networking Activity

We are asking each county Master Gardener group to document their one favorite project or activity for the 2010 Upper Midwest Master Gardener Conference. Submissions will be used to create three presentations. The first is a digital PDF booklet showcasing all the submissions as a resource for Master Gardeners; it will be created as a file that can be downloaded from the conference website. The second, the submissions will be used in a digital slide presentation (PowerPoint) that will be shown during Friday lunch. Third, one submission from each state will be made into a poster presentation that will be displayed in the lobby of the conference.

The project or activity can be anything, the purpose is to share the information and inspire other Master Gardeners. We would appreciate receiving 1-4 photographs and a paragraph or two describing the project or activity. Please include the how, when, where and why in the description.

Please limit each photograph size to less than 1MB. Jpeg format would be helpful, which is the default on most digital cameras. Descriptions can be included in the email message or as an attached file in any word processor or PDF format.

Please email your submissions to Shey Lowman, Illinois Ogle County Master Gardener, at slowman@niu.edu no later than August 1, 2010.

The 2010 Upper Midwest Master Gardener Conference Committee Welcomes You:

Monica David - State Master Gardener Coordinator
Boone County Master Gardeners
DeKalb County Master Gardeners
Ogle County Master Gardeners
Stephenson County Master Gardeners
Winnebago County Master Gardeners

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