



# Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,  
News and Education

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## Coordinators Comments

The winter season is a good time to complete your educational hours. See the listing of continuing education opportunities in this newsletter, including some online classes and modules. Many states are working to create these online opportunities and there are some excellent ones being introduced. I am working on a grant to create IPM online modules here in Illinois. I will keep you posted as new online classes become available.

Winter is also a good time to re-evaluate your programs from 2010. In the September-October issue of *Imagine*, I charged volunteers and staff to adapt their projects to meet the five new Extension priorities. These program initiatives identified by Extension (which meet national NIFA priorities as well) are: 1. energy and environmental stewardship 2. food safety and security 3. economic development and workforce preparedness 4. family health, financial security and wellness and 5. youth development. Perhaps your group needs to re-evaluate some of the projects your group has "always done" and develop new ideas or revamp an existing project to fit the new goals. The types of projects that I would like the counties to pursue with the new Extension initiatives are ones such as native or low water use plant selection; rain barrel projects; education on invasives; composting projects; working with youth on gardening education; community gardens; and teaching youth and adults how to grow healthy fruits and vegetables to combat obesity. These are the pressing issues that we must address in our programming and this is also where grant funding can be secured.

January is also the time to send your hours reports for 2010 (if you have not done so already!) to your local MG Coordinators. I will be asking each county to submit their 2010 report to the state office in the next couple of weeks. Please remember that these hours are important to show the impact of our program!

Happy New Year to aAll!

Monica David, Illinois Master Gardener Coordinator

## MG Reporting Database

Beginning in 2011, all Master Gardener volunteer and continuing education hours will be reported on the new browser-based Volunteer Management System. County staff and Coordinators were trained on this system in December. Each county will have their own set of projects and continuing education events for you to report against. The staff is now working on getting this set-up in the new database so they will need a month or so to get the system ready for you to use. I know you are impatient to try this out, but please allow the staff time to organize the local system for your use. When they are geared up and ready to go, they will train you on how to report your hours. The system is very user friendly and a tutorial is being prepared to assist you in learning to use the system. Your local coordinator will either have a meeting to show you how to use the system or they may provide you with the online tutorial. If you do not have Internet access, a proxy may be assigned to report your hours. Please watch for information from your local Coordinator.

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## Search For Excellence Awards

Search for Excellence is the recognition program of Master Gardener volunteer work throughout the United States and Canada. Awards are given out in seven categories: youth programs; demonstration gardens; workshop or presentation; community service; innovative projects; special needs audiences (senior, disabled or Horticultural Therapy) and research (applied scientific methodology). The applications are to be written by Master Gardeners but they must be sent by an Extension staff member who also verifies that all volunteers involved are in good standing with their programs. Winners will be asked to give a short presentation and prepare a poster for the 2011 International Master Gardener conference to be held in West Virginia in October, 2011.

Award applications are due to Monica David at [modavid@illinois.edu](mailto:modavid@illinois.edu) by **February 1, 2011**. For the application, guidelines and information about past winners go to the national website at [http://www.extension.org/pages/International\\_Master\\_Gardener\\_Search\\_for\\_Excellence](http://www.extension.org/pages/International_Master_Gardener_Search_for_Excellence)

## Important Dates

**January 13– March 31:** Fruit and Vegetable Growing Classes for the Home and Community Garden.

Thursday evenings. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Location to be announced. Sponsored by the Winnebago Extension. 815-986-4357.

**January 19-21:** Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show. Navy Pier, Chicago, IL.

Visit <http://www.midam.org/index.html>

**January 27:** Bi-State Horticulture Seminar “Currants, Grapes and Community Gardens”. The Beef House, Covington, IN. 4:30 p.m. CST. Call 217-465-8585 or <http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/edgar>

**January 27-February 24:** Garden Basic Seminars. Thursday evenings. 6 to 8 p.m. Extension Building #30 on the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Series of five seminars with emphasis on Sustainable Gardening Practices. Topics include plant selection, plant maintenance, native plants, garden critters and soils/ composting. \$30 fee. <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/sangamonmenard/> or 217-782-4617.

**January 29:** A Winter Day in the Garden. Zwermann Theatre, Lincoln Trail College, Robinson, IL. Early Bird presentation (7:30 a.m.) by JMG® Josh Greene on “Square Foot Gardening”. Five experts to speak including Paul Tukey “How and Why to Create a Beautiful, Natural Landscape”; Mac Condill “Seed Saving”; Carolee Snyder “Lovely Lavender”; Tom Turpin “Pollinators of the Garden” and Felder Rushing “Slow Gardening”. Registration is \$35; \$45 after January 19. Breakfast and lunch are included. Sponsored by the Crawford County MGs. 618-546-1549 or <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/Crawford>

**January 27:** Illinois Horseradish Grower’s School. Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. Contact Elizabeth Wahle at 618-692-9434 or [wahle@illinois.edu](mailto:wahle@illinois.edu)

**January 29:** Mid-Winter Horticulture Workshop. First Lutheran Church, Geneseo, IL. 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Three sessions will be offered: “What You Didn’t Know About Bees”; “Attracting Bats for Pest Control” and “Heirloom Flowers”. Cost is \$15. Sponsored by the Henry-Stark and Rock Island County MGs. 309-853-1533.

**February 1:** Southern Illinois Commercial Tree Fruit School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. Contact Elizabeth Wahle at 618-692-9434 or [wahle@illinois.edu](mailto:wahle@illinois.edu)

**February 2:** Southwestern Illinois Commercial Tree Fruit School, First Presbyterian Church, Hardin, IL. Contact Elizabeth Wahle at 618-692-9434 or [wahle@illinois.edu](mailto:wahle@illinois.edu)

**February 11, 12, 13:** 23rd Annual Midwestern Herb and Garden Show, Times Square Mall, Mt. Vernon, IL. The show features educational sessions and Midwestern vendors. Class include: “Lasagna Gardening” by Pat Lanza; “Floral Design to Music” and “Perennials and Native Plants in the Landscape” by Dianne Noland; “Plants of Merit” by Linda Lane. Classes on gourds, herbs, birds, Euphorbias and much more. Free admission. <http://www.midwesternherbandgardenshow.com/>

**February 19:** Southern Illinois Commercial Vegetable School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. Contact Elizabeth Wahle at 618-692-9434 or [wahle@illinois.edu](mailto:wahle@illinois.edu).

**February 19:** Joys of Gardening, Highland Community College Student Conference Center, Freeport, IL. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The keynote address will be given by Mark Zils of Q and Z Nursery in Rochelle. Participants have their choice of 4 breakout sessions presented by Master Gardeners and Industry professionals. The day will feature a silent auction, door prizes and the “Seed Ladies” with their seed giveaway. Cost is \$25 for early bird registration with lunch. Sponsored by Stephenson County MGs. 815-235-4125. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/stephenson>

**February 22-23:** Gateway Green Industry Conference, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. Keynote address “The New Wild Garden: Dynamic, Liveable, Ecological” by Rick Darke and “Turfgrass Management” by Roch Gaussoin, University of Nebraska. Two days of sessions include Woodland Garden Design; Woody Plant Diseases; Using Flowers to Create Curb Appeal; Edible Landscaping; Rain Gardens, Vegetables, Herbs and much more. MG admission with ID card or letter of active status is \$35 for 1 day and \$50 for 2 days (includes lunch, classes and trade show). Email [madison\\_co@extension.uiuc.edu](mailto:madison_co@extension.uiuc.edu) or call 618-650-7050.

**February 24-26:** Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, IL. <http://www.illinoiswine.com>

## Important Dates (cont.)

**February 26:** Spring into Gardening, Coles County Lifespan Center, between Mattoon and Charleston, IL. Check in 8:00-8:45 a.m.; program 8:45 to noon. The opening speaker will be Dianne Noland “Low Maintenance Perennials-Tough Plants for the Landscape”. Other presenters are Janice Coons and Nancy Coutant “Go Green with Native Plants” and Rita Weissing “Go Forth and Multiply or Divide— Plant Propagation”. Cost is \$20 and includes morning refreshments, hand-outs, door prizes, and a chance at silent auction items. Sponsored by Coles County MGs. Register by Feb.18 at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/> coles. 217-345-7034.

**February 26:** Nursery School-Lessons in Gardening, iwireless Center, Moline, IL. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Roy Klehm who will present “My Twenty Favorite Garden Plants”. Choose from 15 different classes including Gardening with a Disability; Color in the Landscape; Beekeeping; Milk Baths; Composting; Herbs and more. Cost is \$45 and includes a continental breakfast, lunch, vendors and door prizes. Deadline to register is Feb 13. Sponsored by the Rock Island County MGs. For information or to register call 309-756-9978 or visit <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/rockisland>

**February 26:** The Gardener’s Pathway: Grow Yourself, Kishwaukee College, Malta, IL. Michael Jeffords, retired Education Coordinator for the Natural History Survey will present the keynote on “Biodiversity: A Worldwide Phenomenon”. Attendees may choose from 18 different breakout sessions including Backyard Prairies, Indoor Gardens, Butterfly Gardening, Composting, Beekeeping, Lasagna Gardening, Weeds and Invasives, Edible Flowers, Propagation, Latest Annuals and much more. Cost is \$50. Day includes continental breakfast, garden lunch, door prizes, exhibit hall, vendors and the Hort Help Desk. Sponsored by the DeKalb County MGs. Registration closes Feb. 21st. 815-758-8194.

**March 1-2:** Small Fruit & Strawberry Schools, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. Contact [jkindhart@illinois.edu](mailto:jkindhart@illinois.edu)

**March 1-2:** ProHort Symposium, Ashland House, Morton, IL. Sponsored by the IL Green Industry Association. <http://www.ina-online.org/prohort.html>

**March 5-13:** Chicago Flower and Garden Show, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL. Garden displays, shopping and lots of educational sessions. <http://chicagoflower.com>

**March 5:** Gardening for Food and Fun, NIU, Rockford, IL. The keynote speaker Ed Lyons, Director of the Allen Centennial Gardens at UW Madison, will present “Changing Trends in Gardening Today: Ornamental Edibles”. Attendees may choose from several education sessions. Fee is \$40 including lunch. Sponsored by the Winnebago County MGs. 815-986-4357.

**March 5:** Gardener’s Palette, Quincy, IL. Mike McGrath, host of the nationally syndicated Public Radio show, “You Bet Your Garden” will be the keynote speaker. Breakout sessions will be offered. Sponsored by the Adams-Brown County MGs. 217-223-8380 or <http://www.extension.illinois.edu/adams>.

**March 5:** Home, Lawn and Garden Day, Central Catholic High School, Bloomington, IL. The \$40 registration fee includes keynote address, choice of several breakout sessions, exhibitors, door prizes and lunch. Sponsored by the McLean County MGs. 309-663-8306 or <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mclean>

**March 5:** Gardeners Big Day, Spoon River College, Canton, IL. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/fulton/> or 309-547-3711.

**March 12:** Spring Garden Seminar, IL. Valley Community College, Oglesby, IL. There will be 16 break-out classes over four sessions including sessions on Winter Tree ID, Vines, Container Gardening, Composting, Pruning, Native Plants, Edible Plants, Lawn Weeds, Medicinal Herbs and much more. Keynote speaker is Drew Efron from Ball Seed who will speak on “Keeping Gardening Relevant in the Decade Ahead”. Cost is \$35 and covers workshops, keynote address, exhibitors, breakfast, lunch, door prizes and a Q and A booth. Sponsored by the LaSalle County MGs. 815-433-0707 or <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/lasalle>.

**March 12:** Weekend Gardener, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This annual event features 16 different breakout topics. Speakers include Extension educators, local garden business owners and Master Gardeners. Registration is \$40 and includes lunch. Sponsored by the Madison-St. Clair County MGs. For more information call 618-236-4172 or <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/madisonstclair>

**March 19:** Gardener’s Day, Western IL University Student Union, Macomb, IL. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$35 and includes a wide choice of break out sessions, lunch, handouts, door prizes and vendors. Sponsored by the McDonough County MGs. 309-837-3939.

## Herb Day 2011

Herb Day 2011 has been scheduled for Saturday, January 22, from 8:00 a.m. (when registration begins and the retail area opens) through 4:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Hotel, 1001 Killarney St., Urbana, IL.

An impressive line-up of speakers includes:

**Terry Hollembaek**, from Nancy's Meadow Herbs, Monroe, Wisconsin, will be speaking about his approach to *Sustainable Herbal Landscape Design*. He is passionate about creating fun personal spaces that never need to see a lawn mower.

**Dianne Noland**, host of The Illinois Gardener on WILL TV, and an instructor of floral design and herbaceous plant materials at the University of Illinois, has come up with some new *Herb and Floral Designs to Music*.

**Chef Michael McGreal**, head of the culinary arts and hospitality department at Joliet Junior College, has a timely message about how everything we eat affects our health. His presentation will be called *Healthy Meals with Herbs*.

**Lucia Bettler**, founder, owner, and chief cook and bottle washer for Lucia's Garden in Houston, Texas, was recently in Israel, where she was inspired by the places and plants of the region. That inspiration has grown into her topic which is *Plants, Herbs, and Oils of Biblical Times*.

**Nancy Momsen**, of Nancy's Meadow Herbs in Monroe, Wisconsin, has a successful greenhouse herb business with her husband, Terry Hollembaek. Nancy will share a sure-fire method for producing *Home-Grown Herbal Microgreens*.

There will be a retail area, selling a wide variety of herb, spice, and gardening products. An herb-themed lunch buffet will be served. Attendees may register through January 14, as long as space remains available. Registrations will be allotted on a first come, first served basis, so reserve now. Once the available 270 spaces are filled, any additional registrations will be returned. On-site registration will only be available if all 270 seats are not filled by pre-registration. On-site registration does not include lunch.

Cost of registration, is only \$60 per person. Reservations must be received by January 14, 2011, to guarantee lunch. Those interested in attending should mail checks, payable to the **University of Illinois**, to: **Herb Day 2011**, Attn: Linda Harvey, 1005 Plant Sciences Lab, 1201 S. Dorner Drive, Urbana, Illinois 61801. For more information, call (217) 244-1693, or e-mail [lh Harvey@illinois.edu](mailto:lh Harvey@illinois.edu). Sorry, credit card orders cannot be accepted, and cancellations will not be refunded.

## 2011 International MG Conference

*Color it Green in a Wild & Wonderful Way*

The West Virginia University Extension Service and the West Virginia Master Gardener Association invite you to join them at the 2011 International Master Gardener Conference, October 11 -14 in Charleston, West VA.

Keynote addresses will be delivered by our own Anna Ball as well as Joe Lamp'l, "Green" gardening expert and author. The featured speakers for the conference have been announced as well as the break-out topics. Featured speakers are:

**Bill Cullina**- "Sugar, Sex and Poison: Shocking Plant Secrets Caught on Camera" and "Why You Can't Buy a Forest in a Can"

**Brian Jorg**- "Going Green – Leading by Example" and "Native Wildflowers for Eastern Gardens"

**Janet Macunovich & Steven Nikkila**- "Gardeners – 21st Century Shamans" and "Garden Kaleidoscope: The Garden Through Rose Colored Glasses"

**Barbara Pleasant**- "Wiser Living Through Gardening – Advice from Mother" & "Revolutionary Home Composting"

**Lee Reich**- "My Weedless Garden" and "Luscious Landscaping with Fruits"

**Vincent Simeone**- "Creating Sustainable Landscapes" and "Landscaping with Native Trees & Shrubs"

Check the website for a complete listing of sessions.

An impressive line-up of day tours has also been planned by the conference committee. Some of the unique natural areas and garden-related destinations include: Heritage Farm Museum, Village and Rose Garden; Kanawha State Forest; Capitol Market; Huntington Museum of Art & Conservatory with Rose Garden; Ginseng and Medicinal Plants at Left Fork Farm; Bob's Market and Greenhouse; and Spring Hill Cemetery, Capitol Market and City Gardens. There are also excursions to experience the local culture and historical sites such as Tamarck/Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine; Blenko Glass and the WV State Capitol Grounds & Museum of Culture and History.

For current information about the conference visit <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/>. You may also sign up for Facebook and Twitter updates on this website.



## Online Educational Opportunities

Are you wanting a couple of hours of continuing education to meet the annual 10 hour requirement? Here are two excellent educational opportunities which can be completed online.

The first comes from the **EAB University** developed by Purdue, Ohio State, Michigan State Universities and the National Forest Service. These free webinars include presentations on EAB, Asian Longhorned Beetle, Thousand Cankers Disease and more. To access the webinars and for more information go to this website: [http://www.emeraldashborer.info/eab\\_university.cfm](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/eab_university.cfm)

From the National Plant Diagnostic network and Virginia Tech University comes a series of **EAB education modules** on: EAB Basics, Ecology, Identifying EAB and its Hosts, Monitoring, Management and Information Resources. Each module has a quiz and the entire set is worth 1.5 hours of continuing education. You may download and print a certificate of completion when you finish the modules. To register for the free modules go to <http://cbc.at.ufl.edu>

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## 2011 Illinois MG Conference

Plan to join us on campus in Urbana on July 7th and 8th for the 2011 Illinois Master Gardener conference. This conference will be a change from our norm and will strive to reconnect Master Gardeners to your research base and the educational faculty on campus. Tours will be offered on Thursday and Friday mornings with class sessions scheduled for the afternoons. The annual awards banquet will be held on the evening of Thursday, July 7th. Tours will feature stops at the greenhouse and conservatory facilities; the U of I Arbotum (Idea Garden, Hartley Trial Gardens and Japan House and gardens); the new energy farm; the sustainable student farm; the pollinarium and bee research and much more. A block of rooms is being held at the Hawthorne Suites near campus at a rate of \$70 per night. Mark your calendars to join us as we go "Back to Our Roots".

## Purdue Offers New Pubs

Purdue University is offering two new publications through their education store. *Shrubs of Indiana* (\$20) is available in CDROM format and features detailed characteristics for species identification of 117 native shrubs, full color photos of leaves, buds, twigs, flowers, fruit, bark and form as well as habitat requirements and range maps for each species. The print book *Native Trees of the Midwest* (\$45) is a definitive guide to identifying trees in Indiana and surrounding states. Descriptive text explains how to identify every species in any season and color photographs show all the important characteristics. To purchase these resources call 1-888-398-4636 or [www.the-education-store.com](http://www.the-education-store.com)

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## Have You Checked out the EMG Blog?

If you have not checked out the relatively new national Master Gardener blog– you are missing a rare treat! The blog may be found at <http://blogs.extension.org/mastergardener/> You can also sign up to follow the blog via Facebook and Twitter. This blog is a great way to see what projects other states are involved in. Over the past month or two the blog has also featured Search for Excellence winning projects from 2009. A couple of interesting posts now on the website include the Survey for Beginning Vegetable Growers from Pennsylvania; the Cornell information on Creating and Sustaining School Gardens and Maryland's "Grow It-Eat It" campaign.

Just before Christmas, our national program leader Bill Hoffman posted information about the "Wreaths Across America" program. This event grew from the efforts of Worcester Wreath and others to adorn graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Worcester Wreath donates (literally) truckloads of wreaths toward the Arlington project. Today, over 400 locations participate in remembering fallen veterans during the holiday season with wreaths from a variety of sources.



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



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