



Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,
News and Education

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Coordinators' Comments

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners have recently received some very notable honors. Most importantly, three of our county projects received prestigious International Search for Excellence awards. These awards were presented at the International Master Gardener Conference in West Virginia on October 14. Please see page two of the newsletter for more information on the awards and projects.

Secondly, I was notified at the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) meeting in September that our Master Gardener manual (which was revised and re-released in December of 2009) has received the 2010 ASHS Extension book publication award. The new manual was the work of over 40 Extension educators and took over 2 years to complete. Many states have used our manual as a model when rewriting or updating their own Master Gardener training manuals. Thanks and congratulations to all of our winners!

On the home front, thanks to the over 1000 Master Gardeners who responded to the Extension survey on volunteerism. I hope to be sharing those results with you in the Jan-Feb issue of Imagine. In conjunction with 4-H we plan to offer volunteer management webinars to staff over the coming year.

The state advisory committee is still in need of MG representatives from the southern and NW regions. An application may be found on the MG website.

2012 will see the release of several educational opportunities for Illinois Master Gardeners. In the next month I will be introducing a new protocol for advanced training certification. Early next year, several online mini-modules on important and emerging insects and diseases will be released for you to use for continuing education. Lastly, I hope to release the State Master Gardener blog very soon as well. This will give us an opportunity to share local project successes, local and state events and much more. So stay tuned for updates!

MG Project Mini-Grants

The Master Gardener state advisory committee has just released a protocol for counties/units to apply for mini-grants through the state office. The mini-grants program will be supported by the silent auction held each year at the annual state conference. The auction raises about \$4000 per year thru your generous support and it is fitting that the money raised go back to the counties to support your projects. The mini-grants were designed to supply start-up or continuation funds for your local endeavors. Existing projects or new projects will both be considered for grant funds. Maximum grant is \$1200 but most grants will be for smaller amounts of money. Grants will be awarded annually. A maximum of 1 grant per county per year. The state office will reimburse unit offices for expenses up to the amount of the mini-grant.

The grant funds are to be used for horticulture programs which meet the goals of the Master Gardener program and should be based on one of the Extension priorities— energy and environmental stewardship; food safety and security; economic development and work force preparedness; family health and wellness and youth development. Preference will be given to programs which make multiple contacts with their audiences— rather than single day events.

There is an application procedure to follow and applications are due to the state office by January 31 of each year. The state MG advisory committee will judge the applications and winners will be announced on March 1. **Applications MUST be written in collaboration with Extension staff and Master Gardeners.** The application form calls for a project narrative and a proposed budget and will be heavily weighted to those projects which demonstrate impact and follow-up. The instructions and application can be found on the MG website under “For IL Master Gardeners”.

 Monica David, IL Master Gardener Coordinator

Illinois Master Gardeners Win Three International SFE Awards

Search for Excellence is the recognition program of Master Gardener volunteer work throughout the United States and Canada. Search for Excellence has seven categories in which Master Gardeners can demonstrate their outstanding contributions to their communities (special - needs audiences, workshops, youth projects, demonstration gardens, innovative projects and community service). Awards are given out every two years at the International Master Gardener conference. This year at the awards ceremony on October 14th in Charleston W.V., three groups of Illinois Master Gardeners were recognized. Of the 18 awards presented (first, second and third in each category), three were given to projects from our state. This is truly an honor for these volunteers and for our Master Gardener programs.

Emerald Ash Borer/Ash Tree Inventory Boone County

Boone County Master Gardeners received 1st place in the Innovative Projects Category for their educational program on EAB. The Emerald Ash Borer/Ash Tree Inventory project was undertaken to give the county, townships,



and city a method to review the overall health of their ash trees and thus be able to make informed decisions as they create plans and budgets in anticipation of the EAB arrival in Boone county. The Master Gardeners worked together going out into the community and gathering

field data on the ash trees and educating the public along the way. All of the collected information was assessed and organized resulting in color coded maps that were sent out to individual townships showing the location and health of their ash trees. To further spread the word, Master Gardeners arranged meetings and educational materials that were sent out to the community at large.

Boone County Master Gardeners are the first in Illinois to conduct an ash tree inventory by this method and their example serves as a pilot for future efforts.



Juvenile Detention Center Community Garden Champaign County

Champaign Master Gardeners received second place in the Youth Projects Category for their work with at risk youth ages 12-17. Working inside during the winter on interactive lessons the Master Gardeners prepare their students for spring and summer when they work outdoors maintaining the gardens on a weekly basis. Working around the inherent restrictions of a secured facility, the volunteers have used their creativity to create relevant and exciting lessons. Some of the most popular lessons are the salsa-making lesson where students experiment with produce grown in their garden and an indoor lesson that exposes students to familiar and unfamiliar produce (pumpkins, watermelons, squash etc.) while collaborating with a music professor who brings international instruments made from gourds. The garden also serves as a certified Monarch Waystation and was a feature of the 2011 Master Gardener Garden Walk.



Rain Barrel Workshops Macon County

Macon County Master Gardeners captured second place in the Workshops Category for their educational hands-on Rain Barrel Workshops. The Macon County Master Gardeners began planning the Rain Barrel Workshop in the summer of 2007. The first hour-long workshop was offered to Master Gardeners with the aim of perfecting a moderately priced and accessible product for individuals of all skill levels. The volunteers began offering the workshop to the public and over 300 rain barrels have been constructed to date. Public interest has increased and there is currently a waiting list for classes! As word spread the Master Gardeners seized the opportunity to take their idea “on the road” and began teaching other Master Gardeners from nine separate counties not only how to construct the rain barrels, but how to host their own workshops. The Master Gardeners are expanding their program and co-taught a rain barrel presentation via teleconference for the whole state of Illinois in April.



To learn about all the SFE award winning projects from throughout the USA– visit the national blog later this month at <http://blogs.extension.org/mastergardener>

U of I Plant Clinic has Moved

The University of Illinois Plant Clinic is now accepting samples all year long. In addition, the clinic has moved from its old location on St. Mary's Road to several labs on the 4th floor of Turner Hall. Turner Hall is located on the U of I campus, near the ACES library and greenhouses. The phone number will remain the same (217-333-0519). The new address is:

University of Illinois Plant Clinic
1102 S Goodwin
S-417 Turner Hall
Urbana, IL 61801

For more information about the plant clinic visit -
<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/plantclinic/>

JMG® and *Growums* Partner to Offer a Fundraiser Opportunity

Junior Master Gardener® has announced a new fundraising partnership with *Growums*. *Growums* are themed garden starter kits which can be used to teach kids to grow from seed to harvest. The kits are a fun, simple learning tool that teaches children and adults alike the joys and benefits of growing their own food. You might consider this fundraiser as a way to raise funds for your youth projects. If you do not want to join this particular effort, it may give you ideas on how to do a similar fundraising effort in your county or unit.



Peoples Garden Opens in Gwacheon National Science Museum in Korea

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced last June that People's Garden's existed in all 50 states, two U.S. territories, and three foreign countries. Since then, People's Gardens are cropping up at Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) posts throughout the world. In March 2010, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service office in the Embassy of Korea was the first international office to embrace the People's Garden Initiative by establishing a garden at the Ambassador's residence, followed by a new minted garden at the Gwacheon National Science Museum.



On April 23, 2011, U.S. Ambassador to Korea Kathleen Stephens opened a permanent People's Garden in vibrant Seoul, Korea, one of the largest cities in the world. The 700-square-meter site was provided by the museum. Dr. Shang-Hi Rhee, president of the Gwacheon National Science Museum, hosted the inaugural event. Dr. Rhee and Ambassador Stephens arrived together by bicycle and were joined by 70 volunteers including Boy Scouts and Junior Master Gardeners—Korea. The Boy Scouts eagerly worked the nearly 600 service hours necessary to prepare and design the garden site, build the garden arbor and the raised the beds for growing vegetables and flowers. In her remarks, Ambassador Stephens emphasized the importance of volunteerism to the success of the People's Garden initiative.

The People's Garden at Gwacheon Museum not only connects the U.S. and Korean communities through a spirit of volunteerism but also enables urban children to learn gardening skills and gain understanding about growing food and healthy eating. Elementary school children affiliated with the JMG-Korea planted vegetable seedlings including red lettuce, green lettuce, oak lettuce, romaine lettuce, eggplant, Korean red pepper, cucumber and cherry tomato. The produce that will eventually be harvested by the children will be donated to charity.

For more information on *Growums* or to view their YouTube video go to www.growums.com. More information about signing up for this project can be found at <http://bit.ly/JMGgreenFundraiser>

Reprinted from- <http://blogs.usda.gov/2011/05/10/people%E2%80%99s-garden-opens-in-gwacheon-national-science-museum-in-korea/>

Costa Rica 2012

Gardens, Rainforest and Wildlife

There are still a few openings in this great tour for Illinois Master Gardeners, their families and friends. The tour which runs February 13-21, 2012 will include on-site visits to private gardens, wildlife and rainforest



preserves, national parks, local farms and botanical gardens, all while surrounded by mountains or the picturesque Pacific Coast. Costa Rica has a tremendous natural diversity of plants and animals and this trip promises to immerse you in a botanical paradise. This ecotour will put us in out of the way places and walking trails

may be rough or steep and there is always the chance of encountering exotic insects or snakes.

The itinerary begins in San Jose, the capitol of Costa Rica which is nestled in the central valley. Our first stop will be Costa Flores to visit their lush tropical gardens, then on to the Sarapiquí region. In this area we will visit the Corsicana pineapple plantation and then La Tirimbina reserve where we will hike through the rainforest and visit an organic cacao plantation to make and eat our own chocolate. On day four we stop at the magnificent La Paz Waterfall Gardens to see lush tropical rain forest, flowing white rivers, spectacular waterfalls, birds, butterflies, monkeys, sloths, snakes, frogs and more. The next day is highlighted by a visit to the Else Kientzler Botanical Garden and the private garden of Ligia Cooper. On our way to the Pacific coast we will visit Villa Vanilla for a sensory journey to smell, touch and taste many different spices. On the coast the group will visit Manuel Antonio Park and have free time to enjoy our oceanside resort. As we head back to San Jose we will visit the Orchid Garden and then conclude with a visit to the private estate of Ileana Teran.

The trip is priced at \$2690 per person, double occupancy. A \$1000 deposit is required with your registration form. Airfare is not included— you may find your own airfare or Hidden Botanical Treasures Tours will assist you. For more information or to book your trip contact mary@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com The full trip itinerary and registration form may be found on the Illinois Master Gardener website.

Aeroponic Garden Lands in Chicago's O'Hare Airport

Airports and fresh produce are traditionally not two things that go hand in hand. Chicago's O'Hare International Airport is looking to change that with the opening of the O'Hare Urban Garden, an aeroponic garden located on the mezzanine level of the second-busiest airport in the world.

Passengers going through Concourse G in O'Hare will be able to get a firsthand look at the garden as well as see an exhibit that describes the positives of aeroponic farming. The 928-square-foot aeroponic garden features nearly 50 different kinds of vegetables and herbs including sweet basil, Habanero peppers, green beans, lettuce mix, thyme, oregano and chives. Tortas Frontera, Wicker Park Seafood & Sushi, Blackhawks Restaurant and Tuscany will all be serving the produce from the garden in the terminal.

Aeroponic farming is the process of growing plants in an air or mist environment without the use of soil or an aggregate medium. Aeroponic growing systems, which leverage carbon dioxide from the air, nutrient infused water in the form of mist delivered to plant roots, and a light source either artificial (fluorescent, LED, etc.) or from the sun to enable plant growth can be located indoors inside of a building or even an airport, underground, and stacked on top of one another.

The O'Hare Urban Garden is made up of 26 eight foot tall cylindrical growing towers that will produce food year-round. Plants are watered for 15 minutes every half hour, and all water that isn't absorbed by the plants is recycled by a special irrigation system in the garden. Special grow lights provide the necessary "sunlight" for the plants, and additional nutrients will be delivered via a mineral nutrient solution.

The garden was a joint effort between the Chicago Department of Aviation and HMSHost, O'Hare's food, retail and beverage provider. Funding came from HMSHost, and was in response to "the growing demand from travelers for fresh local produce," President and CEO Elie Maalouf told CBS news. "This is a great example of how HMSHost is looking at innovative methods of sustainability, in an effort to learn more about how we can further integrate these and other sustainable practices into our business," said Maalouf in a press release.

Reprinted from- <http://seedstock.com/2011/09/21/aeroponic-garden-lands-in-chicagos-ohare-airport/> by Deanna Krinn

Highline Project in New York City

The High Line was built in New York City in the 1930s, as part of a massive public-private infrastructure project called the West Side Improvement. It lifted freight traffic 30 feet in the air, removing dangerous trains from the streets of Manhattan's largest industrial district. No trains have run on the High Line since 1980. Friends of the High Line, a community-based non-profit group, formed in 1999 when the historic structure was under threat of demolition. Friends of the High Line works in partnership with the City of New York to preserve and maintain the structure as an elevated public park.

The project gained the City's support in 2002. The High Line south of 30th Street was donated to the City by CSX Transportation Inc. in 2005. The design team of landscape architects James Corner Field Operations,



with architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro, created the High Line's public landscape with guidance from a diverse community of High Line supporters. Construction on the park began in 2006. The first

section, from Gansevoort Street to West 20th Street, opened June 9, 2009. The second section, from West 20th Street to West 30th Street, opened on June 8, 2011. When all sections are complete, the High Line will be a mile-and-a-half-long elevated park, running through the West Side neighborhoods of the Meatpacking District, West Chelsea and Clinton/Hell's Kitchen.

Much of the first section of the High Line is located in the Meatpacking District. Around 1900, the district was home to more than 250 slaughterhouses and meatpacking plants. In recent decades, the Meatpacking District has seen a resurgence of other uses. Its historic cobblestone streets and low-lying industrial buildings are now home to many restaurants, nightclubs, design and photography studios, and fashion boutiques. To the north of the Meatpacking District is the neighborhood of West Chelsea, where the majority of the High Line is located. West Chelsea shares the industrial past of the Meatpacking District, with large factories and warehouses lining its streets and avenues. West Chelsea is now home to the world's largest concentration of art galleries. Much of Chelsea was, and continues to be, residential with tree-lined blocks of historic townhouses. The High Line's northernmost section runs through

the southern section of the Clinton/Hell's Kitchen neighborhood. Much of this neighborhood was part of the 2005 Hudson Yards Rezoning, which was meant to encourage large-scale development and the improvement of transportation infrastructure.

The park planting designer, Piet Oudolf featured an integrated landscape, combining meandering concrete pathways with naturalistic plantings. Fixed and movable seating, lighting, and special features are also included in the park. The High Line's planting design is inspired by the self-seeded landscape that grew on the out-of-use elevated rail tracks during the 25 years after trains stopped running. The species of perennials, grasses, shrubs and trees were chosen for their hardiness, sustainability, and textural and color variation, with a focus on native species.



Many of the species that originally grew on the High Line's rail bed are incorporated into the park's landscape.

The High Line's rich living environment serves as a fertile laboratory and teaching tool for those interested in horticulture and gardening. Talks, lectures, and family programs with Friends of the High Line horticultural staff, planting designer Piet Oudolf, and landscape architects James Corner Field Operations, provide opportunities for members of the public to learn more about the High Line's Horticulture and Landscape Design. The High Line Schools Program has long been an important part of the community outreach. It started in 2001 and has been utilized by the New York City Laboratory School for Collaborative Studies since 2005. The Schools Program also

includes an ongoing partnership with an after-school program at the Hudson Guild, a community center in the neighborhood serving lower-income residents. Friends



of the High Line's curriculum guides were developed in art, math, science, language arts and social studies. These curriculum as well as lots more information about the High Line can be found at <http://www.thehighline.org/>.

Reprinted from the website— <http://www.thehighline.org>

2013 International Master Gardener Conference

The 2013 International Master Gardener conference will be hosted by the Arkansas and Washington State Master Gardeners. The conference will be an Alaskan cruise on September 7-14, 2013. Follow the updates at: <http://www.uaex.edu/imgc2013/>



2012 Upper Midwest Conference

Extension Master Gardeners from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois are invited to attend the 2012 Upper Midwest Master Gardener Conference. Join fellow gardeners for three days of education, collaboration and discovery on July 19-21, 2012 at the UMN Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen, MN. Classes and tours will be posted soon. You can join their Facebook page for updates on the conference at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/2012-Upper-Midwest-Master-Gardener-Conference/146443522057390>

2012 Illinois Master Gardener Conference

Plans are already underway for the 2012 Illinois Master Gardener conference. McHenry and Lake County Master Gardeners will host the conference on September 6, 7, 8 at the Holiday Inn Crystal Lake Conference Center in Crystal Lake, IL.

The keynote speaker for conference 2012 will be Eliot Coleman. Eliot has more than 40 years of experience in all aspects of organic farming, including field vegetables, greenhouse vegetables, rotational grazing of cattle and sheep, and range poultry. He is the author of *The New Organic Grower*, *Four Seasons Harvest* and the *Winter Harvest Handbook*.



Four Season Farm is an experimental market garden in Harborside, Maine, owned and operated by writers Barbara Damrosch and Eliot Coleman. The farm produces vegetables year-round and has become a nationally recognized model of small-scale sustainable agriculture.

Watch for more details about the conference in the next issue of *Imagine*.

The Gardens of Spain

Hurry and sign up now for the Master Gardener trip to view the glorious gardens of Spain and immerse yourself in the flamboyant culture of this wonderful country. The trip runs September 10-22, 2012 and will visit the cities and gardens of Granada, Cordoba, Seville, Ronda and Madrid. Only eight spaces remain on this trip!

The trip begins with two fabulous gardens in Granada—Jardin de Carmen de los Matires and La Huerta de San Vincente. The garden of Carmen de los Matires was originally a shrine, then a Carmelite convent and now a beautifully restored 19th century garden.



After experiencing the beautiful architecture and food in Granada, the group will visit Alhambra Palace and Generalife Gardens— one of the world's most spectacular gardens. En route to Cordoba, we travel thru olive groves to reach the Great Mosque with its distinctive red and white tiles and Patio de los Naranjos (patio of the orange trees). In Cordoba the group will also visit the Royal Palaces of the Alcazar with beautiful pools and fountains.



Next up is Seville where Maria-Luisa Park and the Plaza de Espana were laid out in 1929 for a "Fair of the Americas" which never took place. Later the group will visit the Gardens of Murillo and Seville's majestic cathedral. Perhaps the most well know garden in Seville is

the Garden of the Royal Palaces of the Alcazar which mixes Christian and Moorish styles of architecture with outstanding gardens, unique plants and many fountains.

Ronda is a spectacular town rising above the gorges of the River Tajo. Alameda del Tajo Gardens and Palace of the Moorish King of Ronda will be enjoyed here. After touring the sites of Ronda, the group will board a high speed train to Madrid where the Parque Buen Retiro with its lovely rose garden and the Botanic Gardens will be featured. Free time to enjoy the sites of Madrid. On the last day, the group will tour the UNESCO World Heritage Segovia, a city that shows Roman architectural mastery.

Tour price is \$3,999 per person land only and airfare is \$1150. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/events> to view the entire itinerary. Contact Robyn Gulstrom to hold your spot— rgulstrom@comcast.net or 269-629-9248.

Illinois Specialty Growers Conference

The Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism and Organic Conference will be held Jan. 11-13, 2012, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Ill. The conference, which features more than 100 speakers and 50 trade show exhibitors, will again host four concurrent preconference workshops, general sessions and breakout sessions aimed at helping Illinois specialty growers cultivate their operations.

Wednesday, Jan. 11, participants may attend one of four preconference workshops, including *Getting Started: Guidelines and Resources for New Growers*, *Scaling Up Local Food Systems*, *Expanding Farmers' Market Opportunities* and *Legal Issues for Specialty Crop Producers*.

The conference opens Thursday, Jan. 12, with a general session and keynote titled, "Foods that Heal — How Eating Local Foods Can Lead to a Sustainable and Healthier Community," featuring Michael McGreal, chef and culinary educator, Joliet Junior College. Participants are invited to attend breakout sessions Thursday, Jan. 12, and Friday, Jan. 13, featuring Agritourism, Fruits, Vegetables, Herbs, Organic Foods, and Emerging Issues and Opportunities. Following Thursday's breakout sessions, the annual banquet will include a keynote speech titled, "A Lifetime of Resource Conservation on Farm and Home — Doing it the Easy Way," presented by Jerry Mills, Mills Apple Farm, Marine, Ill. The 23rd Annual Apple Cider Contest and 10th Annual Hard Cider Contest will again be held in conjunction with the conference, with winners being announced during Thursday evening's festivities.

To receive registration materials or to obtain exhibitor information, please contact Diane Handley at 309-557-2107 or dhandley@ilfb.org. A detailed conference agenda and cider contest details can be viewed at www.specialtygrowers.org. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at a rate of \$87 per night. Please call the hotel directly at 217-529-7777 and ask for the Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism and Organic Conference room block to make reservations at the conference rate.

Your Help Needed for Penn State Apple Survey

Would it be great if we could have a useful, reliable, one stop resource for Apple Rootstocks and Cultivars? That is the goal of a multi-state project recently undertaken to create an Apple Community of Practice on eXtension.

We feel that the best source to ask for what should be on the Community of Practice are those Master Gardeners who might use it or reference it to answer questions for themselves or others. Even if you do not have apples or rarely have questions regarding apples, your feedback and perspective would be greatly valued!

Please take 15 minutes to answer the 24 questions at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AppleCommunity>
In addition, you will have the opportunity to opt in to win one of twenty \$50 Visa Cards as a token of our appreciation for your time.

Your assistance will help us provide region-specific apple variety and rootstock information to commercial producers, nursery professionals, extension educators, master gardeners, home gardeners and consumers.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. If can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to call at 814-863-0192 or email at foster@psu.edu. This is a multistate project and has received IRB approval from the Penn State University Office of Research Protections (ORP) (#35424).

Sincerely,



Daniel D Foster, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
College of Agriculture Sciences
The Pennsylvania State University

2012 MG Training Sites

Location	Starting Date
Benton	January 12
Bourbonnais	January 27
Champaign	January 31
Decatur/Springfield	January 26
Des Plaines	January 10
Dixon	January 20
Edwardsville cluster	January 10
Effingham	January 18
Grayslake	January 20
Macomb	January 18
Orland Park	January 11
Pekin	January 17
Rockford	January 19
Rock Island	January 20
St. Charles	January 3
Online Training	Mid-January

Current Master Gardeners should contact their local Master Gardener Coordinators if they wish to attend sessions for continuing education. Space may be limited in some locations. For more information about these classes contact your local Extension office or the hosting county office.

Most all of the classes will be done face-to-face, although in a few locations one or two of classes will be presented with a LIVE Elluminate session. The Insects lesson by Phil Nixon and the Turfgrass lesson by Rhonda Ferree will be presented this way at several locations. The LIVE Elluminate sessions are delivered via the web just like the Elluminate sessions on Organics given this fall by Rich Tobiasz.

Gardeners and Magnolias: Icons of the South

The Mississippi Master Gardener Association invites ALL Master Gardeners to the Southern Region Master Gardener Conference. The conference will be held May 1-4, 2012 at the Natchez Convention Center.

Tour historic homes and gardens, ranging from large, formal gardens designed by well-known horticulturists to small cottage gardens cascading over fences throughout Natchez. A guided tour of the Natchez City Cemetery will highlight not only the many famous people buried there, but also the breathtaking heirloom camellias, roses, and crape myrtles. The newly completed Natchez Trails will be open for walks along the bluff during the conference.

Southern gardening experts will share their enthusiasm and expertise on insect control, container gardening, computers as gardening tools, garden photography, and many other topics. Share your knowledge and gain valuable tips from other gardeners!

Find more information and to register now go to http://msucare.com/lawn/master_gardener/2012conference/index.html

Garden Professors Blog

There are many gardening blogs on the web these days— however many may advocate methods which are not research based. These should not be used for answering client questions although they might certainly be entertaining! One blog which is my favorite is the Garden Professors Blog hosted by Washington State. The blog is written by four faculty members from Washington State, Michigan State and Virginia Tech Universities. The information is all research-based and I find that their writing styles and the content are very entertaining and informative. Check out this blog at: www.gardenprofessors.com

 Monica David, IL Master Gardener Coordinator

Visit the Illinois Master Gardener Website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg>

