



# Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,  
News and Education

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January-February 2010

## Coordinators Comments

Happy New Year to all! I personally find that January and February are a great time to review the past year and get caught up on the things I forgot or neglected to finish in the previous year. I think it is also a good time to send reminders about the ground rules for the Master Gardener program. I urge you to print a copy of our policies and review them during the cold winter months as you peruse the garden catalogs and think about next years projects. View the documents at [web.extension.uiuc.edu/mg](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/mg)– under the “For IL Master Gardeners” heading.

**Reporting Volunteer Hours:** It is time once again to tally up those volunteer and educational hours and report them to your local office. Active Master Gardeners are required to do 30 volunteer and 10 continuing education hours each year. Your contribution may seem small but we need to document EVERYONES hours so we can show the impact of our work to county, state and national funders. Certainly this is not new, and we are all aware of the budget problems facing the state and University of Illinois. When I receive your hours, they are placed in a database which I then use for my reporting and fundraising. If you do not submit hours to your local County Coordinator (which are then reported to the state office) you will be purged from the state database and will no longer be considered an active Master Gardener. When you turn in your volunteer hours, please also sign a new copy of the volunteer agreement as these must be completed on an annual basis.

**Dismissal of Volunteers:** This is a topic we all hate to discuss but occasionally certain volunteers do not fit well with our mission and are released from our program. It is always best to discuss concerns you have with your local coordinator before situations get out of hand. The policies for dismissal were changed last year by the state advisory committee with assistance from administration and the university lawyer. Please make yourselves aware of these changes.

**Use of the MG Title:** The title “University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener” or Master Gardener is only to be used when you are conducting pre-approved unpaid educational programming. You may not use your title in any form of commercial advertisement or endorse any product or place of business. So if you own a greenhouse or nursery, you may not use your title in your company’s ads. Once you cease being active in the program, you must tender your badge to your County Extension office. The title “Master Gardener” is not bestowed for life, so we request that once you leave the program you cease to use the title. You may however call yourself a Master Gardener alumnus and we hope you do!

**Projects and Education:** Projects must focus on educational efforts for the public and must be **PRE-APPROVED** by your local coordinator. If your project is not pre-approved you will not be covered by Extension’s liability insurance. Although community beautification is a great goal, a Master Gardener project must go further and have an educational component rather than just planting and maintenance of public areas. Also, don’t spend hours weeding your neighbors yard and then present this report to your local coordinator– they won’t accept these hours and this may cause hard feelings. Home visits are very highly discouraged due to liability issues! Remember that our work focuses on home gardeners– not commercial entities. If you receive a call on the hotline from a nursery or greenhouse– refer that question to your Coordinator or Extension Educator. Calls about potential spray drift cases should be referred to your Coordinator or the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture.

**Working with Youth:** Any Master Gardener who has significant contact with youth is required to go through the screening process before beginning the project. This is the same process used by 4-H to screen their volunteers. Many counties have elected to screen all trainees as they enter the program. Please talk with your local county coordinator if you will be working with youth in the coming year– now is a good time to do the paperwork.

Best wishes for a great 2010!

Monica David, Master Gardener State Coordinator

## Important Dates

**January 20-22:** Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show, McCormick Place West, Chicago, IL. Visit <http://www.midam.org/index.html>, call 800-223-8761 or email [midam.org](mailto:midam.org)

**January 23:** “A Winter Day in the Garden”, Zwermann Theatre, Lincoln Trail College, Robinson, IL. 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sessions include “Hooked on Hummers” by Sharon Sorenson; “Tree Selection for the Midwest” by Carl Whitcomb; “Designing a Small Garden on a Budget” and “The Inner Sanctum” by Kaizad Irani and “Herbal Breads” by Father Dominic Garramone. Sponsored by the Crawford County MGs and LTC. Fee of \$35 includes lunch. 618-546-1549. [web.extension.uiuc.edu/crawford/](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/crawford/)

**January 26:** Bi-State Landscape Seminar, The Beef House, Covington, IN. Registration: 5:00 p.m. CST. Dr. Janice Coons, Ph.D. Eastern IL University Professor of Botany will present “Using Native Species in Your Landscape”. \$20 registration, includes meal. Preregistration deadline: January 19. Call 217-465-8585 or online: [www.extension.uiuc.edu/edgar](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/edgar)

**January 28:** Illinois Horseradish Grower School, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. Contact Elizabeth Wahle at 618-692-9434 or [wahle@illinois.edu](mailto:wahle@illinois.edu)

**February 2:** 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 10:** Southern Illinois Commercial Vegetable Growers School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. Contact Elizabeth Wahle at 618-692-9434 or [wahle@illinois.edu](mailto:wahle@illinois.edu).

**February 12-14:** Midwestern Herb and Garden Show, Time Square Mall, Mt. Vernon, IL. The keynote speaker will be Mel Bartholomew, creator of Square Foot Gardening.. The show also features educational sessions and Midwestern vendors. Class include: Honeybees; Gourds; Herbs; Growing Specialty Peppers; Heirloom Vegetables; Tropicals; Birds and much more. Free admission. [www.midwesternherbandgardenshow.com](http://www.midwesternherbandgardenshow.com).

**February 15:** Illinois/Wisconsin (Stateline) Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Harvard, IL. Contact Maurice Ogutu for more information at [ogutu@illinois.edu](mailto:ogutu@illinois.edu)

**February 15-16:** ProHort Symposium, Embassy Suites Hotel, East Peoria, IL. Sponsored by the IL Green Industry Association. Keynotes by Dr. Elwynn Taylor “Global Temperature Changes” and Ellen Wells “Green Issues in Retail”. Breakout sessions include Rainwater Harvest Systems; Tree Diseases; Low Maintenance Perennials; Making Lawns Really Green; Heirloom Vegetables; New and Tough Xerics; Invasives; Ecological Restoration and much more. Download the registration form at [www.illinoisgreen.net](http://www.illinoisgreen.net)

**February 16-17:** Gateway Green Industry Conference, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. Keynote address “The Newest in Color” by Alan Armitage and “These Landscape Problems Can be Prevented “ by Jeff Iles, Iowa State. Two days of sessions include Perennials, Invasive Grasses, Diseases of Oaks and Maples, Shade Trees, Eco-friendly Containers and much more. MG admission with ID card or letter of active status is \$30 for 1 day and \$45 for 2 days (includes lunch, classes and trade show). 618-650-7050 or [www.extension.uiuc.edu/madisonstclair](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/madisonstclair)

**February 20:** Joys of Gardening: A Saturday of Horticulture Fun, Highland Community College, Freeport, IL. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The keynote address “My 25 Favorite Plants”, will be given by Glenn Herold from ICC. Participants have their choice of 16 topics including Hydrangeas; Soils Management; Culinary Gardens; Windbreaks; Cutting Gardens; Gifts From the Kitchen; Composting; Herbs and more. Cost is \$25 for full day with lunch, \$15 for half day. Sponsored by Stephenson County MGs. 815-235-4125. <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/stephenson>

**February 25-27:** Organic Farming Conference, LaCrosse, Wisc. Coordinated by the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES). 715-778-5775 or <http://www.mosesorganic.org>

**February 25-27:** Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, IL. <http://www.illinoiswine.com> or 217-782-6515

**February 27:** Spring into Gardening, Coles County Life-span Center, between Mattoon and Charleston, IL. Check in 8:00-8:45 a.m.; program 8:45 – noon. The opening speaker will be Jennifer Nelson “Using Edibles in the Home Landscape and Containers.” Other presenters are Kaizad Irani “Perennials in the Landscape” and Jon Collins “Don’t be a Pest with Pesticides”. Cost is \$15 and includes morning refreshments, hand-outs, door prizes, and a chance at silent auction items. Sponsored by Coles County MGs. Register by Feb.19 at [www.extension.uiuc.edu/coles](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/coles). 217-345-7034.

## Important Dates (cont.)

**February 27:** 14th Annual Nursery School, iwireless Center, Rock Island, IL. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Richard Hawke, Plant Evaluation Manager at CBG. Choose from 15 different classes including New Annuals and Perennials for 2010; Monarch Butterflies, Cut Flowers, Theme Gardens and much more. Cost is \$45 and includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and vendors door prizes. Sponsored by the Rock Island MGs. [web.extension.uiuc.edu/rockisland](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/rockisland) or 309-756-9978.

**February 27:** The Gardener's Pathway; A Fresh Look at Green, Kishwaukee College, Malta, IL. Mark Dwyer, Director of Hort at the Janesville Rotary Gardens, will present the keynote on "The Edible Garden". Attendees can choose from 18 different breakout sessions including Annuals; Herbs; Bird Gardening; Beekeeping; Constructing a Willow Trellis; Ornamental Grasses; Rooftop Gardening and much more. Cost is \$50. Sponsored by the DeKalb County MGs. 815-825-2086.

**March 2-3:** Small Fruit and Strawberry Schools, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. Contact [jkindhart@illinois.edu](mailto:jkindhart@illinois.edu)

**March 6-14:** Chicago Flower and Garden Show, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL. Garden displays, shopping and lots of educational sessions. <http://chicagoflower.com>

**March 6:** Gardener's Big Day, Spoon River College's Conference Center, Canton, IL. Workshops include: Community Gardens, Ornamental Grasses, The Amazing Bee; What Bugs You Too!; Raised Bed Gardening; Rain Barrels and more. Lunch, vendors and displays included in registration cost. Sponsored by Fulton Co. MGs, Spoon River College and Spoon River Garden Club. 309-547-3711 or [fulton.extension.uiuc.edu](http://fulton.extension.uiuc.edu)

**March 6:** Home, Lawn and Garden Day, Central Catholic High School, Bloomington, IL. The \$40 registration fee includes 3 breakout sessions, vendors, door prizes, lunch and a keynote talk by Dianne Noland. Sponsored by the McLean County MGs. 309-663-8306 or [www.mclean.extension.org](http://www.mclean.extension.org)

**March 6:** Gardeners Day, Zion Lutheran Church, Carlinville. 8:30 a.m.– Noon. Sponsored by the Macoupin County MGs. 217-854-9604

**March 6:** Outdoor Living Extravaganza, The Meadow Club, Rolling Meadows, IL. Sponsored by Proven Winners. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nationally known speakers Paul

Epsom from Victory Garden as well as Kerry Meyer, Tim Wood and Stacey Hirvela. Cost is \$85 which includes lunch. 877-865-5818 or [www.provenwinners.com](http://www.provenwinners.com)

**March 6:** Gardener's Palette- "Successful Secrets Revealed", Quincy, IL. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fifteen great workshops will be offered. \$40 fee includes lunch, snacks, vendor fair and handouts. Register online at [www.extension.uiuc.edu/adams](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/adams) or 217-223-8380.

**March 13:** Spring Garden Seminar, IL. Valley Community College, Oglesby, IL. There will be 16 break-out classes over four sessions including sessions on Herbs; Backyard Habitats; Composting; Container Gardening; Lawn Weeds; Grasses; Pruning and Growing Apple Trees; Insect Pests and much more. Sponsored by the LaSalle County MGs. 815-433-0707 or [www.extension.uiuc.edu/lasalle](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/lasalle).

**March 20:** Gardener's Day, Western IL University Student Union, Macomb, IL. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sessions will include Cut Flowers; Summer and Fall Blooming Vines; Tees and Shrubs; Diseases of Flowers; Composting; Ferns; Small Space Vegetable Gardening and more. Cost is \$35 and includes lunch, handouts, door prizes and vendors. Sponsored by the McDonough MGs. 309-837-3939.

**March 20:** Gardeners Day, U of I Extension Bld., IL State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. with the first seminar at 8:45 a.m. Nine one-hour seminars will be offered in three sessions by U of I Extension specialists and local horticulture experts. Topics include: Creating a Haven for Birds; Terrific Trees; Spring Tune-up for Your Yard; Native Plants; Prune it Right; Small Fruits for the Home Landscape and more. Presented by Sangamon-Menard Unit MGs. Registration fee is \$10 in advance (before March 12) and \$12 at the door. [www.extension.uiuc.edu/sangamonmenard](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/sangamonmenard).

**March 26-27:** Garden Day-Spring into Gardening, I Hotel and Conference Center, Champaign, IL. March 26th will be a workshop focusing on "Landscape Design and Art in the Garden" by Kaizad Irani. March 27th features Joe Lamp'l from PBS TV; Rosalind Creasy on Edible Landscaping; Janet Macunovich and Steven Nikkila and more. Friday only- \$50; Saturday only-\$80 and both days for \$120. Go to [www.extension.uiuc.edu/champaign](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/champaign) or call 217-333-7672.

**April 8:** April in Paris, Edgar County 4-H Fairgrounds, Paris, IL. Sponsored by Edgar County MGs.

**April 10:** Gardenfest, McHenry County College. Sponsored by McHenry County MGs.

## Anna Ball's Top Trends in Hort

Ball Horticultural Company's CEO Anna Ball recently shared her insights on horticulture trends with the International Plant Propagators Society meeting in Cleveland. Here are her top trends:

**Sustainability**– Sustainability is not a project but a new way of doing business. There is a large opportunity for growers to make money by promoting sustainable practices, whether it is presenting plants in eco-friendly packaging with a relevant message or supplying plants for green roofs and green walls. She advises growers to embrace transparency in their production practices, promote sustainable practices and reduce the need for plastics and chemicals.

**Ornamental Edibles**– Ball says “No more 10 by 10 foot victory gardens. Everything should be mixed up. It's a trend we are seeing in every country, even South Africa, Australia and Japan.”

**Gardeners are Fading**– Decorators are taking over and it means instant gratification. Decorators want clear pricing and signage, no waiting in line, clean hands and shoes. Today's consumer wants low maintenance and easy to care for. However there is also a countertrend in the recession, consumers returning to home and slow food.

**Consolidation At Every Level**– From breeder to retailer, consolidation means lower prices and narrower profit margins. However a strong counter trend is coming forth with independent garden centers offering better quality and selection along with knowledgeable staff.

**Beyond Beauty**– Flowers are just not for beauty anymore. Plants can boost property values and tourism; reduce crime and energy costs; calm traffic; provide privacy and security; produce oxygen and sequester pollution. This all ties in with the benefits of America in Bloom.

**Product Blending**– Consumers don't care if a plant is an annual, perennial or woody. Who cares about zones if it is a plant you can use in a container! People don't care what they are– they just care what they look like.

*Greenhouse Grower*, November 18, 2009

## Upper Midwest Conference to be Held in Illinois

The NW region Master Gardeners are hard at work planning the 2010 Master Gardener conference which will be held in conjunction with the Upper Midwest Conference. Master Gardeners from Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota will get together September 16-18 at the Clock Tower Resort in Rockford, IL. The conference will feature all day and half day tours and will include great garden stops such as Anderson Gardens; the Rotary Gardens in Janesville, WI; Rosecrans Healing Gardens; Klehm Arboretum; La Paloma, Sinnissippi Rose Gardens, Nachusa Grasslands, Sally Baumgardener Prairie; a local foods tour in Stephenson County and more.

The keynote speaker at this year's conference will be internationally recognized garden expert William Cullina. Currently, Bill is the Plant and Garden 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. Bill's website may be found at <http://williamcullina.com>



The conference will also feature vendors, the annual silent auction and the opportunity to network with gardeners from all four states. Check the website at [web.extension.uiuc.edu/mg](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/mg) later this winter for more conference details.

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



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