

Illinois Master Gardener **IMAGINE**

INFORMATION ♦ NEWS ♦ EDUCATION



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COORDINATORS' COMMENTS

Happy New Year to all! Mother Nature has seen fit to start our new year with a wintery blast, so now is the time to be inside planning your garden projects for this spring. It is also a good time to read those great gardening books, to put on your boots and attend continuing education events and complete your reporting of 2013 volunteer hours. Included in this newsletter are many different educational options. Many units are offering garden days in the upcoming months with lots of great educational sessions. Don't forget to check out the gardening apps article in this newsletter where Chris Enroth evaluates some of the best gardening apps available. Lastly check out the online continuing education options such as the U of I IPM modules. A list of some of these online modules or courses may be found on the Master Gardener website at web.illinois.extension.edu/mg/

One project the state office completed this fall was a makeover of our marketing materials. Bookmarks and new brochures were created. A template is available for your local educator or coordinator to customize brochures with your county contact information. Each unit also received a stand-up banner for the Master Gardener program. Units may order additional banners if they chose from the supplier. The banners could be used at your garden days, in the office or at farmer's markets this summer.

The horticulture educators assisted this fall in the rewrite of all the quizzes and the final exam for our training classes. These quizzes follow the newly released 2014 MG manual which has just rolled off the presses! You may order a copy of the new manual on the MG website.

Stay warm and think spring! Monica David, Master Gardener Coordinator

MASTER GARDENER PROJECT MINI-GRANTS DUE JANUARY 31

The Master Gardener state advisory committee is offering the opportunity for counties/units to apply for mini-grants through the state office. The mini-grants program is supported by the silent auction held each year at the annual state conference. The silent auction from the 2013 conference raised about \$2500. The state office will match this amount so that \$5000 will be available for the 2014 grants. 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 all 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 should be submitted electronically to the state office by January 31. All those applications which are not submitted correctly or do not follow the guidelines will not be considered. 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".

HERB DAY 2014

We have a very exciting and knowledgeable list of speakers for this year's event, which will be held Saturday, January 18, at the Urbana, Holiday Inn, located conveniently at exit 183 off I-74.

Rosemary Gladstar, originally from California, but now established in Vermont, is an international herbal expert, who hosts programs and symposia in her home state, for which there is usually a waiting list. Her knowledge of herbalism is fantastic, and she is a wonderful warm, open person, too.

Holly Shimizu is the original curator of the Herb Society of America Herb Garden at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. More recently she has been the director of the National Botanic Garden, on the Mall in D.C. Her expertise is centered more on herb gardening and culture, so both women will balance each other's strengths.

Chef Marcus, who for the past few years has prepared the herbal lunch buffet for our Organic Gardening and Herb Days, will this year also present an herbal cooking demonstration, showing how to prepare items available at lunch that same day. He is an experienced chef, with a great background of innovation and use of herbs and unusual ingredients.

As usual, there will be an active retail area where plants, herbal products, gardening supplies, and more will be available for purchase.

Register online at <https://webs.extension.uiuc.edu/registration/default.cfm?RegistrationID=9248>. Contact Linda Harvey at (217) 244-1693 or lharvey@illinois.edu for more information.

DOUGLAS TALLAMY TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT JUNE 13 MG AWARDS BANQUET

Please join fellow Illinois Master Gardeners and award winners at the June 13 awards banquet to be held at the iHotel in Champaign, IL. The day will feature the keynote address, the awards luncheon and optional Hort campus tours.

Douglas W. Tallamy is currently professor and chair of the department of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware, where he has taught insect taxonomy, behavioral ecology, and other subjects. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. Doug won the Silver Medal from the Garden Writer's Association for his book, *Bringing Nature Home*. Doug's website may be found at www.PlantANative.com.

ILLINOIS FIRST DETECTOR -INVASIVE PEST WORKSHOPS

Early detection and response is key to managing invasive pests. The Illinois First Detector workshops are aimed at improving first-detector and invasive species awareness. Plan to attend these workshops focusing on nursery and landscape pests. Each location will have sessions devoted to emerging and current oak threats in Illinois such as the Oak Splendor Beetle, Goldspotted Oak Borer, Sudden Oak Death, and others. A session will be included on invasive plants introduced as ornamentals, such as burning bush, Bradford pear, and Japanese barberry, along with a discussion on non-invasive alternatives. In depth training sessions will highlight identification, symptoms, management, and much more. New this year will be a session devoted to how safeguarding and regulation plays a role on this subject. These sessions qualify for advanced training in IPM.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

January 14- Peoria 309-685-3140
January 16- Collinsville 618-344-4230
February 20- Murphysboro 618-687-1727
February 26- Quad Cities 309-756-9978
February 27- Rockford 815-986-4357
March 7- Mt. Vernon 618-548-1446
March 12- Decatur 217-877-6042
March 21- Champaign 217-333-7672
March 27- Joliet 815-727-9296

All workshops are from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Registration fee is \$40 and includes lunch and training materials. No on-site registrations will be accepted. These workshops made possible by an Illinois IPM grant and are sponsored by University of Illinois Extension, USDA, The Morton Arboretum, Illinois Natural History Survey and IDNR and IDA.

EMERALD ASH BORER MAY HAVE MET ITS MATCH

Woodpeckers find emerald ash borers a handy food source and may slow the spread of this noxious pest, even ultimately controlling it, suggest researchers from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Their findings are published online in the journal *Forest Ecology and Management*.

“In 2006 we started establishing observation plots across Ohio and into Michigan so that we could follow the decline of trees and the impact on the ecosystem,” Charles Flower, UIC postdoctoral research associate and lead author said. In this study the researchers wanted to see if native bark-foraging birds, including woodpeckers and nuthatches, were feeding on the emerald ash borer. They hoped that unlike other exotic invasive species which run amok in new regions because of the lack of predators to keep them in check, the emerald ash borer might meet its match in native predators -- bark foraging birds like the woodpecker and nuthatch. One of the ways a predator can respond to a new abundant food source, according to Flower, is a functional response: the woodpeckers alter their behavior in a way that allows them to find emerald ash borers more efficiently and then consume them more than other prey.

One woodland area being monitored lays behind Dempsey Middle School in Delaware, Ohio. The researchers enlisted the help of schoolchildren to do a precise accounting of bug and woodpecker activity in the area, said Christopher Whelan, an avian ecologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey, UIC adjunct assistant professor of biology and a co-author of the study. A section of trees in the stand behind the school was cut down for examination each year for two years. The students searched for and painted all the holes they found in the bark of each tree -- a different color each for large round woodpecker holes, for the characteristic crescent-shaped holes mature emerald ash borers make exiting a tree and for holes made by other insects. Paint seeped through to dye the stem beneath, and after the bark was stripped the students could identify woodpecker holes that penetrated into emerald ash borer galleries, or into holes made by other bugs. The students tracked the fate of each bug that had been in the tree. Instead of relying on a statistical estimate of the insect population and thus the food source available, every bug and its fate were accounted for. “This was looking at woodpecker foraging at a fine tree-by-tree scale,” said Flower. Their results proved that woodpeckers were indeed choosing to prey on emerald ash borers--eating 85 percent of the emerald ash borer in an infested tree.



Students measure damage to a tree trunk done by EAB. Credit: C. Flower

Another type of predator response to a new food source is a numerical response: the numbers of the predator, in this case woodpeckers and other bark foraging birds, increase either because they were moving into the area or reproducing more successfully.

In a related study, researchers at Cornell tracked the movement of emerald ash borer from Detroit and around the Great Lakes using a citizen scientist data base -- the Project Feeder Watch -- which showed that the numbers of three woodpecker species and the white-breasted nuthatch, the important bark foraging birds in this region, increased as the emerald ash borer increased. “But that study examined the bird population response and didn’t tell you what the birds were doing there,” said Flower. “With the numerical response they found and the functional response we found, we have really powerful evidence of the potential of the woodpeckers and the nuthatch to have an impact on the population of the emerald ash borer,” said Whelan. Very little is known about emerald ash borer habits in its native environment, its natural predators, or how its population is controlled, said Flower. Slowing its course may give researchers time to learn more about how it can be controlled. Woodpeckers won’t save a tree once it’s infested, but they may save the forest. Or at least save a nearby forest,” said Flower. The research suggests that the woodpeckers are likely slowing the spread of emerald ash borer. “Woodpeckers may not be able to snuff them out, but they may be able to control them,” said Whelan.

Journal Reference:

Charles E. Flower, Lawrence C. Long, Kathleen S. Knight, Joanne Rebbeck, Joel S. Brown, Miquel A. Gonzalez-Meler, Christopher J. Whelan. Native bark-foraging birds preferentially forage in infected ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) and prove effective predators of the invasive emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire). *Forest Ecology and Management*, 2014; <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378112713007858>

IMPORTANT DATES

January 14: Gardening Programs by Marshall-Putnam MGs, Marshall-Putnam Extension Office, Henry. These classes are on Tuesdays at 1:30 pm and each class covers a different gardening topic. Dates are Jan 14, Feb. 11, April 15, June 10, Aug. 12, Sept. 16, Oct. 14 and Nov. 11. Fee is \$2 per class. 815-433-0707.

January 14-15: Gateway Green Industry Conference, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville. Keynote addresses by Kaizad Irani, Horticulture Professor from Parkland College and University of Illinois, who will discuss E-impACT, and Lynn Bement, The Organic Garden Coach, who will address Sex in the Soil: The Facts of Life Beyond NPK. Two days of sessions include: Borers of Drought, Up and Coming Perennial Stars, Comparing Some Common but Important Tree Diseases and much more. MG admission with ID card or letter of active status is \$35 for 1 day and \$50 for 2 days. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mms> or 618-344-4230.

January 25: A Winter Day in the Garden, Highland Church of Christ, Robinson. Sessions include Heirloom Vegetables by Karen Geiser; Pizzas from the Garden by Father Dominic Garramone; Peonies, Rhododendrons and Azaleas by Dave Wanninger; Butterflies by Sharon Sorenson and Planters with Pizzazz by Virginia Hodgson. Registration is \$35; \$45 after January 13. Breakfast and lunch are included. Sponsored by the Crawford County MGs. 618-546-1549 or <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cce/crawfordmg/>

January 30-February 1: Illinois Grape Growers and Vintors Association conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield. Contact Megan Pressnall- megan@illinoiswine.com. <http://www.illinoiswine.org/winter-wine-festival.html>

February 4: Southwestern Illinois Commercial Tree Fruit School, Knights of Columbus Hall, Hardin. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mms/downloads/51256.pdf>

February 5: Southern Illinois Commercial Tree Fruit School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mms/downloads/51257.pdf>

February 5-7: iLandscape-the Illinois and Wisconsin Landscape Show (This replaces the Mid-Am Hort Show), The Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, Schaumburg. Enjoy great sessions by Allan Armitage and Charles Vander Kooi along with 300+ vendors and other educational sessions. <http://www.ilandscapeshow.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/home.home/index.htm>

February 8: Gardening Insights, Richland Community College, Decatur. Keynote speaker is Melinda Myers, who will speak on creating a colorful garden with birds, butterflies and blossoms. Breakout sessions include: Succulents; Micro Greens; Ornamental Grasses; Floral Design; Seed Starting; Daylilies; Pollinators; Tomatoes; Birds and much more. \$25 for classes, keynote and lunch. 217-877-6042 or <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/dmp/>

February 11-12: IL Small Fruit, Strawberry School & Southern IL Vegetable School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon.

February 20: Growing Produce for Profit, Elizabeth Community Building, Elizabeth. University of Illinois Extension along with Iowa State University Extension & Outreach, will present an informational workshop on Growing Produce for Profit. This will be an all day program with break out sessions to include: Large Scale Composting, Agri-tourism, Organic Vegetable Production, and Niche Crops. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw/programevents/3960.html>

February 22: The Gardener's Pathway: Spring's First Gardening Joy, Kishwaukee College Conference Center, Malta. Keynote address by Melinda Myers who will describe how to build a colorful garden from the ground up. Other workshops include Native Plants; Roses; Butterflies; Grapes; Preserving Food Safely; Lasagna Gardening; Body Smart Gardening; Forcing Bulbs and more. Day includes continental breakfast, garden lunch and exhibit hall of unique items. Sponsored by the DeKalb Co. MGs and Kishwaukee College. web.extension.illinois.edu/bdo

February 22: Nursery School-Lessons in Gardening, iwireless Center, Moline, IL. 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The keynote speaker will be Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture, Rotary Botanical Garden, Janesville, WI. Choose from 15 different classes including Heirloom Vegetables; Diseases; Aromatic Composting; Seed Saving; Ponds; Gardening in Miniature and more. \$45 fee (before Feb 1) includes breakfast, lunch, snacks, vendors and handouts. Sponsored by the Rock Island Co. MGs. Call 309-756-9978 or <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/hmrs/>

IMPORTANT DATES CONTINUED

February 22: The Natural Landscape Symposium, Lincoln Land Community College, Litchfield. 8:00 am to Noon. Guy Sternberg, will be the keynote speaker. Guy Sternberg is co-author of *Native Trees for North American Landscapes* and director of Starhill Forest Arboretum. Participants will also be able to attend 2 – 60 minute sessions. Online registration opens mid-January at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cjmm>

March 1: 19th Annual Gardener's Palette, John Wood Community College, Quincy. 9 am- 3:30 pm. Keynote speaker is Melinda Myers and she will present "Healthful Gardening in any Available Space". Breakout sessions include Sensational Shrubs; Garden Design; Edible Weeds; Power Perennials; Season Extension; Creating Your Own Wildlife Sanctuary and more. Fee is \$40 which includes lunch, snacks, classes and vendors. Sponsored by the Adams-Brown County MGs. 217-223-8380. Register online at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/abhps>

March 1: Home, Lawn and Garden Day 2014, Central Catholic High School, Bloomington. Attendees select 3 workshops from 42 topics and 1 of 9 "Dessert with a Master Gardener" Mini-Workshops and attend 2 general sessions. Keynote speakers include Mac Condill from The Great Pumpkin Patch in Arthur, Illinois as he presents "Seeing The World With Cucurbit-Colored Glasses" and Jennifer Brennan from The Chalet Nursery in Wilmette, presenting "The Art, Skill and Fun of Container Gardening." A \$50 registration fee includes workshops, vendors and exhibitors, lunch, refreshments, and silent auction. Sponsored by the McLean County MGs. Online registration opens January 13 at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/lmw>

March 1: Gardening For Food and Fun, NIU campus, Rockford. Co-Keynote address given by U of I Extension Horticulture Educator Candice Miller and Energy and Environmental Stewardship Educator Peggy Doty – The People and Nature Perspective. Sessions offered include: Beekeeping, Native Plant Seed Starting, Re-landscaping on a Budget, Heirlooms for the Garden, Cooking with Culinary Herbs, Tried and True Garden Favorites and more. \$40 includes keynote, 3 sessions and lunch. Registration and information at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw>

March 8: IVCC Spring Garden Seminar, IL. Valley Community College, Oglesby. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/blmp> or 815-433-0707.

March 8: Annual Garden Day Workshop and Spring Festival, Crossroads Christian Church, Danville. 8 am to 4 pm. Featured speakers include Susan Biggs Warner who will discuss "How to Make Your own Herb Vinegar"; Scott Elrick, State Geologist on the Discovery of a Fossilized Rainforest near Danville and Janet Macunovich on Landscape Design. Charge including lunch is \$20. 217-442-8615 or <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/>

March 15-23: Chicago Flower and Garden Show, Navy Pier, Chicago. Garden displays, shopping and lots of educational sessions. <http://chicagoflower.com>

March 15: Spring into Gardening Day, Marshall-Putnam Extension Office, Henry. 9 to 11 am. Marshall-Putnam MGs will give sessions on Vegetables; Tomatoes; Strawberries; Hostas; Succulents and Raised Beds. \$10. 309-364-2356.

March 15: Ready..Set..Grow, Sauk Valley College, Dixon. 8:00 am to 3 pm. A keynote presentation on Heirloom Flavor will be given by award-winning author, enthusiastic gardener and heirloom authority – Doreen Howard. Let her show you how to return to flavor with heirlooms. Other workshops available include: Hands-on Hypertufa & Terrariums; Attracting Birds; Alternative Gardening; Small Fruits; Pollinators; Vegetable Gardening; New Plants for 2014; Herbs; Container Gardens and much, more. Sponsored by the Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside County MGs. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/bdo>

March 15: Gardener's Day, Western IL University Student Union, Macomb. Sponsored by the McDonough County MGs. 309-837-3939.

March 18: ProHort Symposium, Illinois Central College, East Peoria. Day long workshop includes speakers and lunch. Three tracks are presented- Landscape/Design; Retail and Arboriculture/Horticulture. Classes include Top 10 Plants; The Drought of 2012; Herbs; Landscaping for Wildlife; Containers; Tree Problems; Natives and more. \$30 includes lunch. Presented in partnership with the IL. Green Industry and Extension. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/fmpt/>

March 21-23: Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium, John Logan Center for Business and Industry, Carterville. 618-687-1727.

IMPORTANT DATES CONTINUED

March 22: Gardener's Day, Morgan County Extension Office, Jacksonville. 9 am to Noon. Topics include Ornamental Grasses, Fruit Tree Pruning and Japanese Beetles. In addition there will be a rain barrel workshop in the afternoon for an additional charge. \$10 per person. Sponsored by the Morgan and Greene County MGs. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/ccgms/> or 217-243-7424.

March 28: Landscape Professional Stateline Conference, University of Wisconsin-Rock County in Janesville, WI. 8:30 am -12:30 pm. This half-day conference will provide arborists, landscapers, and other horticulture professionals up-to-date information from Extension Specialists from Wisconsin and Illinois. Presented in collaboration by the University of Wisconsin Extension and the University of Illinois Extension.

March 29: Gardeners Big Day, Dickson Mounds Museum, Lewiston. 8:45 am to 4 pm. Keynote speakers include Dr. Michael Wiant from Dickson Mounds Museum; Dianne Noland from University of Illinois and Ella Maxwell. Breakout session topics include: Iris; Medicinal Herbs; Shady Garden Respite; Monarchs; Tech in the Garden; Pruning; Food Preservation and Coneflowers Gone Crazy. Vendors and displays. Sponsored by the Fulton County MGs. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/fmpt/>

April 5: Gardenfest 2014, McHenry County College, Crystal Lake. Keynote speaker is Amanda Thomsen, author of "Kiss My Aster: A Graphic Guide for Creating a Fantastic Yard Totally Tailored to You". Classes include: Top 25 Herbs; Succulents; The Cottage Garden; Enhancing Your Curb Appeal; Drought Stress on Trees; Living Wall/Vertical Gardening and many more. Fee is \$40. Sponsored by MCC and the McHenry County MGs. Visit www.mchenry.edu/gardenfest or 815-455-8764.

April 12: Weekend Gardener, Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville. 8:30 am to 2:45 pm. Choose from 16 exciting workshops including Wildflowers; Growing with Natives; Shade Gardening; Pruning; Vegetable Gardening and more. Fee is \$40 and includes lunch. Pre-registration is required. Call 618-939-3434 for more information.

GARDENING APPS PART II

Chris Enroth, Horticulture Educator in Unit 10 recently reviewed Gardening Apps in his May 2013 blog.

Disclaimer: University of Illinois Extension does not promote the use or purchase of a particular product. Reference to specific companies does not imply endorsement by University of Illinois Extension, nor is discrimination intended against any that are not listed.

"As promised, I have the results from my gardening app evaluation. For all those who sent in suggestions – thank you very much. With all the wonderful recommendations for apps I have accumulated quite a list to test and evaluate. In fact, expect updates in the near future as more and more apps appear every day."

"Following is the rankings of the garden apps I have evaluated thus far. Scores are based on a five-point scale; 1 = poor and 5 = superior".

Dirr's Tree and Shrub Finder at 4.8
A tie: Audubon Guides & iVeggie Garden at 4.6
Leafsnap at 4.4
Garden Plan Pro at 4.1
Landscaper's Companion at 3.7
ID Weeds at 3.4
Tree Key at 3.2
IPMPro at 3.1
Organic Gardening Plant Planner at 3.0
Flower Pedia HD at 2.9
My Garden App at 2.6

For a complete look at Chris's evaluation of gardening apps check out his evaluation documents at: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/hkmw/downloads/48410.pdf>

For more information on gardening apps check out Rhonda Ferree's Pinterest (Rhonda is a Horticulture Educator for Unit 11) page at <http://www.pinterest.com/ilriverhort/gardening-apps/>



MASTER VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES FOR DISASTER RELATED TREE CARE QUESTIONS

The following are guidelines concerning how Master Gardeners and Master Naturalist (Master Volunteers-MVs) should respond to requests for help with tree care following a disaster, such as the Central Illinois tornados of November 2013.

MVs should NOT make recommendations concerning tree removal or repair. This is outside of the knowledge of most MVs. MV training covers basic pruning but does not provide information on how to assess major tree hazard or other assessment recommendations with potential liability concerns. This should ONLY be left to bonded/insured professionals, such as certified arborists. Other possibilities for homeowners to consider include the following.

- Stress to the clients that whoever is doing the tree work needs to be fully insured. The homeowner should ask to see the insurance policy before anyone starts any type of activity! Otherwise, the homeowner may become liable and that can get serious with chain saws and bucket trucks. Get things in writing. (All that similar stuff with home repair.)
- Local municipal arborists and horticulturists and their unbiased recommendations on trustworthy local tree professionals.
- Under the mutual aid agreement in Illinois, public works employees (i.e. city arborists) from outside the damaged area could be deployed to assist in impacted areas.
- Are any local landscaping companies offering assistance in the impacted area?
- Disaster response groups like the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, Mennonite Disaster Services, and American Baptist Men often go into a community and do tree work on private property. <http://www.disastercenter.com/agency.htm>
- State foresters referrals
- The U.S. Forest Service has Urban Strike Force Teams that are trained and deployed in disaster relief to assist communities with risk assessment and FEMA with debris identification. www.ufst.org

Here are some ideas of how MVs CAN help outside of situations with liability concerns.

- During debris cleanup help people understand how to separate the trash so that it is disposed of (and recycled) properly.
- Develop a list of tree and debris removal companies that can do this work.
- Develop a program using accredited list of tree professionals to do tree assessments that mitigate future disasters.
- Assist with damaged trees under the direction (and insurance coverage) of a certified arborist.
- Provide education on how to reestablish landscapes, such as suggesting replacement trees and plants once clean-up has occurred.
- Since insurance payouts seldom cover landscaping, find partners and organize teams to assist homeowners with landscape design and installation.
- Offer water brigades after replanting.

Large Scale Project Examples:

- Canopy by Design in Alabama initiated after 2011 tornadoes. <http://www.reeis.usda.gov/web/crisprojectpages/0226744-restoring-quality-of-life--canopy-by-design.html>
- Landscape Revival after Hurricane Ike <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/recovery/>

Resources found in Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Extension's Disaster Blog

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/fmpt/eb332/category_282.html

1. Pruning Storm Damaged Trees – factsheet by Jennifer Fishburn, Horticulture Educator with University of Illinois Extension
2. Tree Hazard Awareness from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension
3. Checklist for Dealing with Storm Damaged Landscapes, news release by Rhonda Ferree, Horticulture Educator with University of Illinois Extension
4. Prioritize Storm Damaged Tree Care, news release by Rhonda Ferree, Horticulture Educator with University of Illinois Extension
5. Repair Storm Damaged Trees with Care, news release by Rhonda Ferree, Horticulture Educator with University of Illinois Extension (includes links to other resources)
6. Handling Pesticide Containers After a Storm, news release by David Robson, University of Illinois Extension Specialist, Pesticide Safety Education Program

Sources of this information come from the USDA, EDEN and Master Gardener Coordinators and educators from states who have had similar weather disasters.

Compiled by Rhonda Ferree on December 10, 2013

WHAT IS A COTTAGE FOOD OPERATION?

Farmers markets continue to grow and expand each year as a result of increasing consumer demand for fresh, local food. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the number of farmers markets in the United States has increased 184% from the year 2000 to 2013. In 2013 there were 8,144 farmers markets listed in USDA's National Farmers Market Directory. As the number of farmers markets has grown, so too has the ever increasing selection of foods sold at these venues. Fresh fruits and vegetables aren't the only items present. Cookies, pastries, dried herbs, jams, and other foods have also become popular. In support of this surge in local agriculture and small business development, the Illinois Cottage Food Operation Law was enacted on January 1, 2012.

The Illinois Law defines a "Cottage Food Operation" as a business operated by a person at the farmers market who produces or packages non-potentially hazardous food in a kitchen of that person's primary domestic residence for direct sale by the owner or family member. The food is stored in the residence where the food is made. No prior inspection or use of a certified kitchen is required. Gross receipts from the sale of food exempted under this law may not exceed \$25,000 in a calendar year. Products can't be resold to retail stores, restaurants, on the Internet, by mail order, to wholesalers, brokers or other food distributors who resell food.

Foods prepared for sale by a Cottage Food Operation can only be potentially non-hazardous baked goods, fruit pies, jams, jellies, fruit preserves, fruit butters, dry herbs, dry herb blends, and dry tea blends intended for end-use consumption. Foods not permitted to be manufactured for sale by a Cottage Food Operation are any potentially hazardous food (as defined by the 2009 FDA Food Code or subsequent amendments). That includes, but is not limited to:

- Meat products, dairy products, canned vegetables, pickled products, raw seed sprouts, and generally any food item that requires time and temperature control for food safety are NOT permitted.
- Jams, Jellies, and Preserves: Rhubarb, tomato, watermelon, and pepper jellies or jams are NOT permitted
- Fruit Butters: Pumpkin, rhubarb, tomato, banana, and pear butters are NOT permitted.
- Baked Goods: Pumpkin pie, sweet potato pie, cheese cake, custard pies, crème pies, and pastries with potentially hazardous fillings or toppings are NOT permitted.

Cottage Food Operator Requirements:

The name and residence of the person preparing and selling products as a cottage food operation is registered with the county health department of a unit of local government where the cottage food operation resides. A fee may be charged for registration. The person preparing and selling products as a cottage food operation has a current Department of Public Health approved Food Service Sanitation Management Certificate.

Farmers Markets Regulations:

In Illinois, a Cottage Food Operation may only sell products at a farmers market. "Farmers' Market" means a common facility or area where farmers gather to sell a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and other locally produced farm and food products directly to consumers. All samples to be served for tasting at a farmer's market must be prepared at home by the CFO. All samples must be in individual container with lids or individually wrapped. Labeling is not required.

For more information about Cottage Food Operations visit the Extension website at- <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cottage/safe.cfm>

