



newsletter for Champaign County Master Gardeners

# the cultivator



German Alpine Garden at Centennial High School

## What's Growin' On by Carolyn Ogen

Here we are in the autumn of the year after what has to be a unique summer: much rain and temperate weather for most of the time, NO squash bugs, two mosquitoes, no flies (well, maybe a few Japanese beetles)—am I in Illinois? As I write this in the latter part of September, I am still picking green beans every day from the two pole bean varieties I planted which are new to me. Fortex, a French filet bean, and Hilda, a Romano-type, (although her name doesn't sound very Italian) have both provided huge crops non-stop. And fellow MG Tom Seals, informs me that my Brussels sprouts are looking pretty impressive. All in all, it has been a fun vegetable year for this gardener.

On September 15, we continued to take advantage of some of that beautiful weather when 76 master gardeners and guests picnicked in Hessel Park in Champaign. Sandy Mason and Bill Vander Weit led us on an informative, interesting tree walk and Chef Benjamin of Mahomet provided our tasty picnic fare. All who attended enjoyed learning and socializing in such a pleasant setting.

Want to see what a talented group of members we have? Plan to attend the Wine and Art program October 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Farm Credit Services Building in Mahomet. We'll have a presentation on wine history followed by twelve Master Gardeners who will be displaying their art. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be provided by The Hideaway. Plan on joining us.

The Nominating Committee, Judy Fraker, Chair, Mary Morris, and Mary Ellen Dorner are preparing a slate which will be presented at the Annual Meeting November 17.

We are very proud of three of our members who received the Outstanding Master Gardener award at

## october/november 2009

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

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## What's Growin' On (continued)

the State Conference. Sarah Redd, Ruth Gerlach, and Rita Weisiger were recognized for their many hours of service. Congratulations! And thank you!

I have enjoyed the following poem; I hope you do, too.

### Patriotism

by Ellie Schoenfeld

My country is this dirt  
that gathers under my fingernails  
when I am in the garden.  
The quiet bacteria and fungi,  
all the little insects and bugs  
are my compatriots. They are  
idealistic, always working together  
for the common good.  
I kneel on the earth  
and pledge my allegiance  
to all the dirt of the world,  
to all of that soil which grows  
flowers and food  
for the just and unjust alike.  
The soil does not care  
what we think about or who we love.  
It knows our true substance,  
of what we are really made.  
I stand my ground on this ground,  
this ground which will  
ultimately  
recruit us all  
to its side.

"Patriotism" by Ellie Schoenfeld, from *The Dark Honey*.  
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## Annual Business Meeting

Tuesday, November 17 • 6:00 p.m.

Potluck and Annual Business meeting

Program: **MUST-SEE GARDENS OF THE U.S.**

Food and great companionship, election of 2010 officers and an update on our budget, and a good garden talk are the features of the November 2009 monthly meeting.

Come one, come all to meet, greet and share your gardening experiences with your fellow Master Gardeners at this annual meeting to prepare for 2010 and to wrap up 2009!

For the potluck, bring a dish to share with your fellow Master Gardeners. Chicken will be provided for all attending. After eating there will be a brief business meeting to elect officers, handout awards and receive an update on the budget.

We will then hear Monica David, Illinois Master Gardener Coordinator, talk about Must-See Gardens in the U. S. Monica will highlight the gardens of Charleston, SC that she visited on the Illinois and Arkansas Master Gardener trip in October. She will guide us through the Magnolia Plantation (the oldest public garden in America with sections dating back more than 325 years), Middleton Plantation Gardens (a National Historic Landmark) and Brookgreen Gardens (a diverse mix of forested swamp, salt marsh, sandy ridges and fresh tidal swamps). Monica will show us other gardens in Charleston and elsewhere.

Please call the Extension office, 333-7672, to sign up for the meeting by Friday, November 13 so that we have a count for the quantity of chicken to have available.

## An Evening of Art, Wine and History

Please join the Master Gardeners on Tuesday, October 20th at 6:30 PM for an evening of wine and art featuring our own local MG artists and special guest speaker and vintner, Mr. Bradley Beam.

A University of Illinois Enology Specialist, Mr. Beam will discuss the history of Illinois grape and wine processing. Enjoy learning how the Merlot or Chardonnay you taste made it to your glass! The evening also

features food from local restaurant, The Hideaway, including an assortment of cheese, crackers and fresh salsa bruchetta, the perfect accompaniment to wine.

At the same time we can view the works of many talented Master Gardener artists who call Illinois home. See what these MG's create (when not gardening!) including watercolor, sculpture, quilting, photography and more!

Tickets for this special event include hor d'oeuvres and are \$12, which includes two glasses of wine, or \$6.00 for iced tea or water.

The event will be held at Farm Credit Services, 1100 Farm Credit Drive, Mahomet, IL ( Rt 150 ). Entrance is on the first parking lot on the SE side of the building. Please register online for this ultimate celebration of local food, wine history and art.

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## A note of thanks....

Dear Centennial Staff and Centennial PTSA:

I have been receiving compliments on our lovely German Alpine Rock Garden (*see picture page 1*) in the Centennial courtyard and I want everyone to know it is ALL thanks to our terrific PTSA and the Master Gardeners here in Champaign. Teachers, if you have a "theme" idea for a garden for your subject area, the PTSA/ Master Gardeners would love to hear about it, perhaps eventually helping you to bring it about. It was absolutely great to have students outside, in the dirt,

helping clean, plant, mulch, etc. The opportunity for them to work with knowledgeable adults in our school community was also a great bit of mentoring. Thank you, PTSA and Master Gardeners, from the bottom of my heart for taking our little idea and making it a reality.

Vielen Dank!

Mary (Malloy, German), Centennial High School German Teacher

**"All of us are benefiting from the great ideas we accumulated and how you are maximizing your educational opportunities."**

**-The Green Center, St. Louis, MO**

*(Idea Garden Visitors Log entry)*

## State Award Winners!

Congratulations to our State Award Winners:

### Outstanding Master Gardeners

Rita Weisiger

Sarah Redd

Ruth Gerlach

### Photo Award Winners

Ann Tice

Laura Hayden



Ruth Gerlach



Sarah Redd and Rita Weisiger

## Congrats to Newly Certified MG's!

Gloria Wiseshart  
Dianne Wardrop  
Diann Thoma



## Here Comes the Bus!

Macon County Master Gardeners present our 2009 Fall Bus Trip and you are invited to come along!

On October 7, 2009 Macon County Master Gardeners and friends are hitting the road once again. We are headed for Peoria to visit Hoerr's Nursery and Kickapoo Creek Winery.

Our bus will depart from the Macon County Extension Office at 8:00 a.m. and should return by 5:30 p.m. The office is located at 3351 North President Howard Brown Parkway, Decatur, IL.

The cost for the day is \$35.00 for Master Gardeners and \$40 for guests, which includes transportation, light refreshment at the nursery, tours and lunch. At the nursery, there will be: a presentation on fairy gardens and an opportunity to make a fall container. You may bring your own container (18 inch diameter maximum) or purchase a container at the nursery. The soil will be provided and you will only buy the plants you want to use (maximum of 5).

The nursery was founded in 1926 by D.A. Hoerr It is now the 3rd generation of the Hoerr family that owns and operates the business. The nursery was recognized in 2009 as "one of the 100 most revolutionary garden centers" in the country by *Today's Garden Center Magazine*.

Then it is on to the Kickapoo Creek Winery for lunch, wine tasting, winery tour and a ride through the vineyard on the Grape Express.

Deadline for registration is Tuesday, September 29, 2009. For more information, please visit these websites:

<http://www.hoernnursery.com/>

<http://www.kickapooecreekwinery.com/>

To register, please call the office or register online at our website at:

<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/macon/>

Then fasten your seatbelts, and enjoy the ride!

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All Master Gardeners, including trainees, interns, and actives, are encouraged and welcome to attend any programs or meetings. All meetings are held at the Extension office unless stated otherwise.

## October

- 1, Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - Advisory Committee meeting
- 1, Thursday, 10:30 a.m. – Program Committee meeting
- 1, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. – Poisonous Plants Telenet (repeat)
- 5, Monday, 1:30 p.m.- Prairie Restoration Telenet
- 5, Monday, 6:00 p.m. – Prairie Restoration Telenet (repeat)
- 6, Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. Garden Walk Committee Meeting
- 7, Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. Garden Day 2010 Planning Meeting
- 9, Friday, 9:00 a.m. Idea Garden Tender Plant and Topiary Move to Greenhouse
- 13, Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. Bonsai Telenet
- 15, Thursday, 11:00 a.m. Idea Garden Committee Meeting
- 15, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Bonsai Telenet
- 16, Friday, Juvenile Detention Center Fall Workday, time TBD
- 20, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Master Gardener Monthly Meeting, Master Gardener Art and Wine History, Farm Credit Service Building, Mahomet

## November

- 3, Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. Garden Walk Committee Meeting
- 5, Thursday, 9:00 a.m. Advisory Committee Meeting
- 5, Thursday, 10:30 a.m. Program Committee Meeting
- 7, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Idea Garden “Close the Garden” Workday
- 17, Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. Master Gardener Annual Business meeting and potluck. Guest speaker, Monica David
- 20, Friday, Master Gardener Training Application Deadline
- 19, Thursday, 11:00 a.m. Idea Garden Committee Meeting
- 21, Saturday, Organic Gardening Day, Hawthorn Suites
- 26-27, Thursday-Friday, Happy Thanksgiving! Extension Office Closed

## December

- 8, Tuesday, Master Gardener Holly Day Dinner, more details to follow

## Enjoy Autumn Tree Color in YOUR Yard

Fall is a great time to plant trees and many local nurseries are running specials to reduce what they have to care for during the winter. If you are in the market for a new tree, remember to consider fall color as one of the many traits that you may be looking for in your purchase.

### Tree selections for red color

- Many maple varieties especially sugar maples and red maples (don't confuse

with Norway Maples)

- Oaks in the red oak family such as red, black, and pin
- Select Sweetgum varieties
- Select Sumac varieties
- Most Dogwoods
- Persimmons
- Some Sassafras

### Tree selections for yellow and orange color

- Black Walnut

- White oak family including white and bur oak
- Hickories
- Some Sassafras
- Some Sweetgum can go through different color progressions during the fall
- Select Maples

See article next page on where to find local color.

by Daniel J. Olsen



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Deadline to submit articles for future issues....

November 15

January 15

University of Illinois Extension Champaign County

801 N. Country Fair Drive, Ste. D Champaign, IL 61821

Tel: 217.333.7672 Fax: 217.333.7683

<http://champaign.extension.uiuc.edu>

## Enjoying Local Autumn Tree Color

By Daniel J. Olson

If you stop by any travel agency this time of year, you will find a unique travel opportunity. Trips to view the brilliant autumn tree colors, typically on the east coast, have been popular for many years. But this year, predictions are that you will be able to enjoy fantastic fall colors right here at home.

Although leaf color change can seem magical, it all begins with the natural breakdown of the chlorophyll that dominates in the leaf. The demise of green chlorophyll pigments allows other masked colors to be expressed. Those unmasked fall colors quickly become characteristic colors that are often associated with a particular species of tree. Although the species of tree will dictate most of the color, the weather throughout the summer and fall can influence which colors can be seen and how vibrant they may be. The

most common fall leaf colors here in the Midwest are red, yellow, and orange. Some species of trees can express multiple colors simultaneously giving them a larger array of brilliance. When you add in shades of brown from oaks and lively greens from conifers, the color diversity in the landscape and in your yard can be stunning. The red fall color is stronger when warm and sunny fall days are interspersed with cool nights perfectly describing central Illinois weather conditions we experienced this summer. Some species are already showing bright yellows. Therefore, we could see more of the deep oranges this year as the red and yellow pigments combine. The fall color display will continue as long as frost doesn't come early. A quick check of the Master Gardener Manual tells us that the average frost date in east central Illinois is around Oct. 14, so make sure to get out before then.

There are many local places to go to enjoy autumn's brilliance. The Champaign County Forest Preserve District has five preserves open to the public. Directions to the preserves can be found at [www.ccfpd.org](http://www.ccfpd.org). The Vermilion County Conservation District has several preserves to enjoy. Find out more at [www.vccd.org](http://www.vccd.org). The Urbana Park District has natural areas open to all. Their information can be found at [www.urbanaparks.org](http://www.urbanaparks.org). There are several local state parks such as Weldon Springs in Clinton, Moraine View in LeRoy, and Kickapoo in Oakwood just to name a few. If you visit for the colors, take along the kids and a picnic lunch as all of these places have more to offer than gazing at fall colors. Of course don't forget to enjoy the fall colors in your own yard and around your neighborhood. It is much easier to rake leaves knowing that the trees in your yard provided shade in the summer and a display of color in the fall.

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University of Illinois Extension  
Champaign County Master Gardeners  
801 N. County Fair Drive, Suite D  
Champaign, IL 61821-2492

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