

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Purdue Cooperative Extension Service – Hancock County

Contact: Roy Ballard, ANR Educator

317/462-1113 X225

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October 13, 2008

Hancock County Extension to offer Master Gardener training

Greenfield - The Hancock County Office of the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service has announced the formation of the 2009 Master Gardener training series from 6-9 p.m. Tuesday evenings from January 13–April 21.

If you have a strong interest in gardening and enjoy helping others, this class provides the opportunity to become a Purdue University Extension Master Gardener volunteer.

For those who plan to join the 2009 class or enroll in a future class, there will be an orientation meeting from 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13 at the Extension Office. There is no cost or obligation of any kind to attend. General information about the Master Gardener Program will be presented, as well as Purdue Extension resources and references available to the home gardener.

The Master Gardener program will increase your knowledge and understanding of such varied horticultural topics as best cultural practices for growing flowers, vegetables, turf, houseplant care, plant disease and insect pest identification, control, and much more. Instructors are Extension educators and specialists along with other local horticultural experts.

To become a Purdue Extension Master Gardener volunteer, you must attend all training sessions, pass a written examination, and volunteer horticultural service to the community through Extension educational programming. Such service could include teaching gardening to 4-H youth, planting and maintaining Extension demonstration gardens, answering gardening questions from the public, judging flower and vegetable projects at the county fair, and assisting community garden participants among many others.

The class size is limited and pre-registration is required. Those accepted into the 2009 training class must pay a materials fee of \$100 along with a \$25 deposit. The deposit will be refundable upon your completion of a volunteer hour commitment.

Many see their participation in the Master Gardener program as a way to increase their gardening knowledge while involving themselves in an opportunity to share something that they love to do with others.

While the Master Gardener program can make a great gift to recognize a birthday or holiday it does take a commitment of time and energy on the part of the participant. Enrollment is often best a gift to one's self as an opportunity to grow personally as you help others grow.

For additional information, to obtain an application, or to pre-register for the orientation you may contact Communication Specialist Janet Helms or Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator Roy Ballard at (317) 462-1113; jhelms@purdue.edu or rballard@purdue.edu. Completed applications must be received by 4 p.m. Friday, January 9.

Please do not miss this opportunity to increase your gardening knowledge and skills, build a network with other gardeners in the community, and have a chance to share your enthusiasm for and knowledge of gardening with others in the community.


-30-

October 8, 2008

From: Roy Ballard, Purdue Extension Educator, ANR, Hancock County

To: Master Gardener Applicants for 2009 Class

Re: 2009 Master Gardener Class



I am pleased to announce that we have scheduled the 2009 Hancock County Master Gardener Training Series. You have indicated an interest in the next training series and have gone to the trouble of submitting an application already, so I wanted you to be the first to know.

For a number of reasons we have chosen to schedule this series from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. I understand that this will not work for everyone's schedule. I hope it will work for yours and that you will be able to join us because I think we have an outstanding lineup of presenters. If this time frame is not compatible with your schedule I can let you know of programs that will be running in adjacent counties.

If you are still interested in the program, please let us know at your earliest convenience so we may hold a place for you. Attendance will be limited to the first 40 paid participants. I have enclosed a copy of the upcoming press release and a draft agenda for you reference.

I look forward to the opportunity to work and learn with you as we go about the business of "Helping Others Grow"!



**HANCOCK COUNTY
2009 MASTER GARDENER TRAINING
6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM**

Hancock County Extension Office
802 North Apple Street
Greenfield, Indiana

JANUARY 13, TUESDAY
ORIENTATION

ROY W. BALLARD, Purdue Extension Educator
Hancock County

JANUARY 20, TUESDAY
REGISTRATION/INTRODUCTION

ROY W. BALLARD, Purdue Extension Educator,
Hancock County; JANET HELMS, Hancock County
Communication Specialist

PLANT SCIENCE

BILL RICE, Purdue Extension Educator, ANR,
Hamilton County

JANUARY 27, TUESDAY
SOILS and PLANT NUTRITION

CHRIS PARKER, Purdue Extension Educator,
Morgan County

FEBRUARY 3, TUESDAY
PLANT DISEASE DIAGNOSIS/CONTROL

GAIL RUHL, Director, Purdue Plant Diagnostic
Clinic

FEBRUARY 10, TUESDAY
**INSECT PEST IDENTIFICATION/CONTROL
CURRENT PEST PROBLEMS**

DOUG AKERS, Purdue Extension Educator, ANR, Boone County

FEBRUARY 17, TUESDAY
**WEED IDENTIFICATION/CONTROL
INVASIVE SPECIES**

GLENN NICE, Purdue Extension Specialist

FEBRUARY 24, TUESDAY
VEGETABLE GARDENING

ROY W. BALLARD, Purdue Extension Educator
Hancock County

MARCH 3, TUESDAY
HERBACEOUS ORNAMENTALS

MARY WELCH KEESEY, Purdue Extension Specialist,
Horticulture

MARCH 10, TUESDAY

NOTE: This class will meet at an alternate location

PESTICIDE SAFETY & EQUIPMENT
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

ROY W. BALLARD, Purdue Extension Educator
Hancock County

MARCH 17, TUESDAY
HOME LAWNS

JOHN ORICK, Purdue Extension Educator,
Madison County

HERB GARDENING

JOYCE DURBIN MILLER, Hancock County Herb
Society Member

MARCH 24, TUESDAY
WOODY ORNAMENTALS

STEVE MAYER, Purdue Extension Educator, Marion
County

MARCH 31... NO CLASS...SPRING BREAK

APRIL 7, TUESDAY
DEALING WITH NUISANCE WILDLIFE

JOHNATHON FERRIS, Purdue Extension Educator,
Fayette County

FINAL EXAM

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

APRIL 14, TUESDAY
HELPING OTHERS GROW-
WORKING WITH THE PUBLIC

ROY BALLARD, Purdue Extension Educator,
Hancock County

USING THE RIGHT TOOLS
BREAKING NEW GROUND

STEVE SWAIN, Purdue University, Department of
Agriculture and Biological Engineering,

**If you require auxiliary aids and services due to a disability,
please contact us prior to the event at 317-462-1113
Ask for Roy Ballard**

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(317) 462-1113 · FAX: (317) 462-2424 · www.extension.purdue.edu/hancock
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What is the Hancock County MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM?

The Hancock County Master Gardener Program is "Helping Others Grow." The program provides gardeners with intensive education in horticultural principles. The instruction is provided without charge; however, there is a fee for supplies which become your personal reference collection. Participants who successfully complete the program and, thereafter, donate an equal number of volunteer hours in community gardening services are certified as **Master Gardeners**. Yearly donation of time is expected to maintain certification. In Hancock County Roy Ballard, who facilitates the course and assists in the instruction of some sessions, coordinates the program.

Why Should You Become a Master Gardener?

You'll always have the opportunity to grow in several ways when you become a Master Gardener. After satisfying the requirements for volunteer activity, the ways you grow and how far you go are up to you!

- The training sessions will increase your knowledge of a wide array of gardening subjects.
- This increased knowledge will give you the skills and confidence to teach others in your community what you know about gardening, either one-on-one or in group settings.
- Sharing your gardening knowledge with your neighbors will give you a great way to become more involved in improving the quality of life in your community.

And you'll be able, if you wish, to use the training and experience in leadership you've gotten through your activities in the Master Gardener Program as a springboard to other forms of community leadership.

What Training Will You Get?

If you are accepted into the Master Gardener Program, you will receive training in the following areas:

Soil Science	Plant Nutrition
Plant Propagation	Plant Science
Identification and Control of Insect Pests	Identification and Control of Plant Diseases
Sprayer Calibration	Pesticide Safety
Flowers	Landscaping
Vegetable Gardening	Flower Gardening
Planting & Pruning	Lawn Care

What Will it Cost You to Become an Extension Master Gardener?

Purdue University staff and other speakers provide instruction free of charge. Your only expense will be a fee for publications and supplies, which will become a part of your personal reference collection. Currently, the cost is \$125 per person. This price is subject to change. Refreshments are provided at the first and last sessions as a part of the fee. Those class members choosing to do so provide refreshments for other sessions.

What Do You Get?

Each participant or household gets their own set of horticulture related publications and a binder to hold them. In addition, there are numerous handouts provided in class as well as picture sets and materials from Purdue University and other universities.

What are the Requirements of the Master Gardener Program?

When you've been accepted into a training program, you will need to attend the series of 12 classes, each lasting about 3 hours. After completing the training, you will be examined over the material covered and must receive a score of 70% to become a Master Gardener Intern.

- You must then do 35 hours of community education service to your community. This can consist of such services as answering garden questions, conducting garden schools, working on community beautification projects, or assisting in other public education-related activities. Credit for Master Gardener activities are limited to those associated with public facilities only or for public not-for-profit organizations. Homeowner association projects do not qualify. Volunteer hours must have an educational component included to qualify. All volunteer hours must be approved by the Master Gardener Coordinator.
- When you have passed your exam and completed your volunteer commitment, you will be certified as a Purdue Extension Master Gardener by Purdue University. For more information, contact Roy Ballard on upcoming programs and dates.

Payment is by good check or cash. Sorry, but we are not able to accept credit cards at this time. Payment is required to reserve a place in the class. Spots will not be held without pre-payment. We will accept an application and then notify you when the next class is scheduled.

Background Checks... Why?

- As a Master Gardener, you will be representing Purdue University to your community. In this capacity, you fall under Purdue's behavioral expectations guidelines. Additionally, Purdue could possibly be held liable for your actions as a Master Gardener. Therefore, background checks are required. Please call our office if you have any questions.

For more information, contact

Roy Ballard, Purdue Extension Educator at 317-462-1113 or rballard@purdue.edu

 **Master Gardener** APPLICATION
PROGRAM

I wish to become a Purdue Master Gardener Volunteer and would like to be accepted into the training program. I understand that upon successful completion of training, I will agree to complete a minimum of 35 hours of public education service, representing Purdue University.

Signature _____ Name _____
(Please print)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Please answer the following questions so that we can match your talents to our volunteer needs. No experience is required, but we would like to know what your interests are.

Years of gardening experience _____

Please list any special training or experience in gardening _____

Please list areas of specialization or hobbies (e.g. vegetables, greenhouse, roses, etc.) _____

Please list gardening group affiliations _____

Please list times during the next gardening season that you know will not be available for volunteer service due to vacation, job, or other regular commitments.

What are some of your hobbies not related to gardening? _____

Why do you wish to become a Master Gardener? _____

Master Gardener Application cont.

(over)

Are you employed in the horticulture profession? _____

(garden center, nursery, etc.)

If so, who is your employer? _____

Please check the areas in which you would prefer to volunteer.

_____ Speak to groups. Circle the group size :

(small - less than 5)

(medium - 5-20)

(large - over 21)

_____ Organizational activities (booths, 4-H, community education events)

_____ Management (Serve as officer or committee chair in M.G. Association group)

_____ Staffing (information booths, office work, telephone calls)

_____ Plant identification and problem diagnosis

_____ Writing (news articles, fact sheets, newsletters, etc.)

_____ Demonstration Gardens

_____ Other. Please specify. _____

Please check the age group with which you are most at ease to work.

_____ Children (5-10 years)

_____ Teens (11-19 years)

_____ Adults

_____ Senior Citizens

_____ Any of the above groups

Would you be willing to serve as an officer in a local Master Gardener Association? _____

For Office Use Only

The following forms have been signed by applicant and received by our office.

MG Adult Behavioral Expectations Form Date Rec'd _____

Pest Management Information Policy Date Rec'd _____

Consent For Background Check Date Rec'd _____

Photo Release Form Date Rec'd _____