

PATHWAYS TO A GREENER ILLINOIS



**2008 Illinois
Master Gardener Conference**
The Westin
Lombard, IL
September 11, 12, 13

Registration Opens:
June 15 for Master Gardeners & one adult guest
August 1 for the public



Schedule at a Glance

2008 Silent Auction

We need your help to make the 5th annual Silent Auction a success. We are looking for donations of artwork, sculpture, paintings, books, garden tools, garden gifts, etc. The profits from the auction benefit the State Master Gardener office for expenses such as the *Imagine* newsletter. You may send your donation or bring it to the conference, but please Contact

Sarah Navrotski,
sarahnv@illinois.edu
at the DuPage
County office
BEFORE THE
CONFERENCE to let
her know what you
will be donating.



Thursday, September 11

7:00 am	Registration opens
8:15 am to 4:30 pm	All Day Tour A -Green Technology Center, "Smart Home:Green & Wired" and Lurie Gardens (lunch included)
8:00 am to 5:00 pm	All Day Tour B -Midwest Groundcovers, Country Garden Cuisines and Planter's Palette (lunch included)
8:30 am to 11:30 pm	Half Day Tour C -Cantigny Park
8:15 am to 11:30 am	Half Day Tour D -Ball Horticultural
Lunch on your own for half-day tours	
1:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Half Day Tour E - Private Garden Tours
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Half Day Tour F - Green Earth Institute and Lyman Woods
1:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Hands on Disease and Insect Workshop Morton Arboretum, no transportation

Dinner on Your Own

Friday, September 12

7:00 am to 8:30 am	Registration, Continental Breakfast
8:30 am to 10:00 am	Educational Sessions
10:00 am to 10:30 am	Break, Vendors Open
10:30 am to Noon	Educational Sessions
Noon to 1:30 pm	Lunch, Vendors Open
1:30 pm to 3 pm	Educational Sessions
3:00 pm to 3:30 pm	Break, Vendors Open
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm	Educational Sessions
6:00 pm to 6:30 pm	Happy Hour
6:30 pm to 9 pm	Awards Banquet

Saturday, September 13

7:00 am to 8:30 am	Registration, Continental Breakfast
8:30 am to 10:00 am	Keynote- Melinda Myers "'Growing Green Environmentally Friendly Landscapes'"
	Break
10:00 am to 10:30 am	Educational sessions
10:30 am to Noon	Lunch, Silent Auction
Noon to 1:30 pm	Educational sessions
1:30 pm to 3:00 pm	Educational sessions

Tour Descriptions

What's New in 2008?

Thursday night

Thursday dinner is on your own— check the website for a list of local restaurants or head next door to Yorktown Mall.

Breakfast

Continental breakfast will be served on Friday and Saturday (included in your registration).

Vendors

Check out the sales booths on Friday. Items such as books, garden gifts and plants will be for sale.

Author books

Visit the registration desk and purchase books authored by our speakers:

Melinda Myers

Dan Heims

Ellen Ogden

Sue Amatangelo

Phil Nixon

Authors will be on hand to sign books.

Scavenger Hunt

Look for the game card when you check in. It's a great way to get to know other MGs.

Register online

See the last page of this brochure.

ALL DAY TOUR A-Chicago Center for Green Technology; Smart Home:Green and Wired at the Museum of Science and Industry and Lurie Gardens at Millennium Park (\$45/MGs,\$55/public, includes lunch) *Limit 50*

The Chicago Green Technology Center is only the third building in the United States to be designated according to the LEED rating system using the highest standards of green technology available. The group will tour the building and campus with native plant gardens. The second stop will be a tour of the new Smart Home, a 2,500 square foot home and grounds at the museum. View the smart energy conservation, sustainable gardens and roofs and the latest innovations in reusable resources. After lunch, tour the Lurie gardens with your guide. This unique 2.5 acre garden designed by Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel has dramatic 15 foot high "shoulder" hedge which encloses the garden & perennial beds.

ALL DAY TOUR B- Midwest Groundcovers; Country Garden Cuisines and Planter's Palette (\$45/MGs, \$55/public, includes lunch) *Limit 50*

Roy Diblick from Northwind Perennial Farm will lead the group on a tour of the gardens at Midwest Groundcovers, where you will learn about plant communities and how to maintain them. Brent Gustafson will show the conifer and rose gardens, followed by a tour of the perennial trials with Kevin McGowen. Next stop on this tour is a visit to the herb gardens at Country Garden Cuisines. Owner Penny Newkirk will demonstrate how to use herbs in meal preparation and then will serve an herbal lunch. End the day with a 'shop till you drop' experience at Planter's Palette which has a great selection of annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs and a wonderful gift shop.

HALF DAY MORNING TOUR C-Cantigny Park (\$20/MGs, \$30/public) *Limit 50*

Cantigny was the estate of *Chicago Tribune* magnet Robert R. McCormick and includes the mansion and beautiful gardens. This excursion includes a visit to the fabulous Idea Garden complete with herb and vegetable gardens; a Walk Through the Four Seasons area with annuals, perennials, vines, shrubs and trees; a children's garden and an All-America Selections garden. This half day tour ends with a stop at the 18,500 square foot greenhouse facility.

HALF DAY MORNING TOUR D- Ball Horticultural Company (\$20/MGs,

\$30/public) Limit 50 The knowledgeable staff from Ball will walk you thru the 7 1/2 acres of display gardens and will highlight the new varieties to be released at retail in 2009. You will enjoy the over 1000 containers as well as sweeping beds of annuals and perennials. Guides will describe the All America Selections trials as well as the Circle of Life sustainable growing program.

HALF DAY AFTERNOON TOUR E-Private Gardens Tour (\$20/MGs, \$30/public)

Limit 50 Trudi Temple, Master Gardener alumnus, designed and maintained her 1 1/2 acre cottage style garden for 30 years. It has been featured in numerous national gardening magazines including the cover of *Horticulture*. The garden has been featured on *Victory Garden* and included in Pamela Wolfe's book, *Midwest Gardens*. The Ogden garden misses no details in this elaborate and charming garden with a luxurious backyard retreat. The home and gardens cover three city lots with a "Painted Lady" Victorian home. The front gardens feature formal clipped parterres and the rear gardens flow seamlessly by patio, pond, hearth and swimming pool.

HALF DAY AFTERNOON TOUR F-Green Earth Institute and Lyman Woods

(\$20/MGs, \$30/public) Limit 50 The Green Earth Institute's mission is to promote nutritional health and ecological sustainability. Using their organic farm as a demonstration and learning center, they grow healthy vegetables in an earth friendly way and educate about nature, nutrition and caring for the earth. Over 40 different vegetable and herb crops are grown on the farm and harvest is sold thru a community supported Ag program. The second stop, at the Lyman Woods Interpretive Center, is a starting point for exploration of more than 150 acres of old and second growth oak woods, meadow and restored wetlands. Participants will also be able to view the green roof planted with native vegetation. (appropriate footwear to climb the ladder is required).

AFTERNOON WORKSHOP- Disease and Insect Hands-on Class at Morton

(\$9 entrance fee) You must provide your own transportation. Limit 25 Bone up on your disease and insect diagnostic skills. Meet at the Arboretum and tour the grounds to collect samples. The workshop will then go to the lab for hands-on work with samples and microscopes.

Educational Sessions

Friday, September 12

8:30 am to 10:00 am (A)

A1 **Tropicals for Northern Gardens**– *Joan Mazat*

This session will cover how to use tropicals in the northern garden particularly in mixed combination planters. Learn which varieties work best and what's new.

A2 **Connecting Kids to Nature Through Nature**

Journaling– *Susan Grupp* Limit 25 Fee \$2

Natures' signals abound, we sense them everywhere. Regular notes and sketches nurture a deeper connection with nature. In this interactive workshop, participants will discuss the benefits of journaling, create a nature journal and go outside to learn techniques and ways of recording the wonders of what you see, hear, feel and smell.

A3 **Rain Gardens: Why and How**– *Andrea Green* **G**

Explore the issues of water runoff in the Illinois landscape and explore how rain gardens restore ground water. Learn how to construct and plant a rain garden. This slide/lecture show will also illustrate Andrea's own rain garden and how it solves water problems in flat landscapes.

A4 **Good, Bad and Ugly Insects**– *Donna Danielson*

Learn how to identify some of the worst insects pests in Illinois (the bad) and to recognize a few of the beneficials (the good).

A5 **Urban Composting**– *Bill Shores* **G**

We will begin with an overview of the basics of composting and then go on to discuss how composting systems can fit attractively into small urban landscapes. Participants will see examples of container composting systems that can be built or purchased and discuss different types of materials that can be composted and techniques for composting efficiently in a small space. Finally, we will discuss composting with redworms.

10:30 am to Noon (B)

B1 **Terrariums** –*Dwight Lund* Limit 25 Fee \$7.50

A brief history and function of terrariums with a demonstration of the method for starting a plant in a bottle. Participants will plant their own bottles supplied by the speaker.

B2 **Design for the Seasons**– *Karla Lynch*

Does your landscape lack pizzazz at different times of the year? Karla's design class will show you how to plan a landscape that is appealing and has interest in every season.

B3 **Shade Gardening with New Perennials**– *Dan Heims*

Methods of dealing with different types of shade are discussed as well as solving the problems of root and light competition. Gorgeous plant combinations are shown with an overview of new perennials and old favorites.

B4 **New Products and Trends in Sustainable Horticulture**– *Bill Doeckle* **G**

Find out what sustainable garden products growers, manufacturers and retailers have recently released. Discuss trends such as organics, natives, bio-packaging and green roofs.

B5 **Decline in Wetland Bird Populations**– *Mike Ward*

Mike has analyzed 25 years of wetland bird data from 150+ wetlands in the Chicagoland area in order to determine the population status. Of the 12 species analyzed, 10 were declining. Mike used high resolution aerial photographs to determine that although legislation has protected wetlands from being filled, development around wetlands is rendering the sites only suitable for a few species. **G**

B6 **Green Youth Farm: Growing Teenagers from the Ground Up**– *Eliza Fournier*

The Green Youth Farm, a Chicago Botanic Garden project, is a summer opportunity for area teens focused on organic food production. This class will focus on the basic program components including entrepreneurship, teaching organic gardening principles to youth, & leading successful workdays in the garden. The presenter will also lead the group through several team building exercises to use in any gardening situation.

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm (C)

C1 **Terrariums**– *Dwight Lund* Limit 25 Fee \$7.50

Repeat of B1

C2 **Facelift for Your Garden**– *Karla Lynch*

Learn how to do a design for landscape renovation in this class. Discover what to look for and new ideas in landscape design in order to renovate an existing garden

C3 **Four Fabulous Genera**– *Dan Heims*

A brief history of *Pulmonaria*, *Tiarella*, *Heuchera* and x *Heucharella* is followed by slides of native populations and the breeding programs that have transformed these quiet woodlanders into some of the most sought-after perennials today.

C4 **Changes in Illinois Bird Communities**– *Mike Ward*

In 1906 Stephen Forbes (founder of the Illinois natural History Survey) initiated a statewide bird survey. In 1956 these surveys were repeated and over the last three years were again repeated. Mike will present data on the changes in diversity, abundance and distribution of birds over the last 100 years. He will also talk about the subtle changes that are poised to present greater changes for bird conservation in the future. **G**

C5 **Insect IPM with Host Cues and Pheromones**–

Phil Nixon

An overview of some of the chemicals and other cues that insects use to find their hosts and each other. Phil will also discuss how to use these chemicals to manage insect pests.

C6 **Kitchen and Garden Inspired Spa Products**–

Nancy Clifton

Everyday kitchen items are enhanced with herbs, flowers and fragrance to perform spa-like treatments at home. Sugar, salt, oatmeal and cornmeal sound like the ingredients for an old-fashion breakfast. Add fresh, dried or fragrant oils of herbs and flowers to make these regular kitchen materials spa treatments worthy of the best salon at a fraction of the cost. Favorite herbs and flowers will be covered as well as ideas and recipes for these good old fashion beauty tricks.

Educational Sessions

3:30 pm to 5:00 pm (D)

D1 Saving the Earth with Native Landscaping–
Pat Armstrong **G**

This program will emphasize the problems with lawns, reasons for using native plants in the landscape and show examples of plants and native landscapes for sun (prairie) and shade (woodlands).

D2 Absolutely Beautiful Containers– *Sue Amatangelo*
From pots to plants learn what elements make up an absolutely beautiful container garden. Get ideas for container gardening throughout the four seasons.

D3 Organic Lawn Care: Are You Brave Enough–
Mike Nowak **G**

68% of consumers say that their concern for the environment is a consideration when buying lawn and garden products. Yet these same people are the ones who bend to societal pressure to have a “perfect” lawn. In this talk, Mike looks at how to have an attractive lawn using organic methods. He also examines why one’s perception of what constitutes a pleasing lawn is at least as important as the care it receives.

D4 The Able Gardener– *Gene Rothert*

This session will review the design strategies and features that enable safe, comfortable and lifelong gardening for any individual with impaired mobility.

D5 Its All Latin to Me– *Sharon Yiesla*

Do all those “Latin” plant names drive you crazy? Do you ever wonder why we bother with them? Did you know a lot of them are not even really Latin? Extension educator Sharon Yiesla will clear up some of the mystery for you. She will tell you why they matter, the right way to use them and what a lot of the commonly used words mean (some plant names really do mean something).

Saturday, September 13
10:30 pm to Noon (E)

E1 Homeowner from Hell– *Jim Schuster*

Jim will pretend to be a very ignorant homeowner calling Master Gardeners for help. As a group, the Master Gardeners in the class will try to solve his disease and insect problems by asking the right questions.

E2– Water Conservation and Runoff Management for the Home Landscape– *Marcus de la fleur* **G**

With its green roof, rain barrels, rain gardens and other “green” applications, this residential pilot project in Elmhurst, IL brings to life the principles of responsible treatment of rain water within a residential landscape. Marcus will speak about the rationales of the applied sustainable practices, explain how to make a yard not only beautiful but useful and “green”, and describe and quantify the larger cumulative effect of changing to “green”.

E3 From a Kitchen Garden– *Ellen Ogden*

From a Kitchen Garden is a cooks’ perspective on what are the best varieties to grow in a kitchen garden and how to design the garden for maximum enjoyment. Includes step by step visuals from design to planting as well as a range of inspiring kitchen gardens to offer ideas for the gardener who seeks to add more colorful culinary elements to their design.

E4 Clematis for Northern Gardens– *Richard Hawke*

A profusion of showy blossoms makes clematis the undisputed queen of the climbers and an essential vine for every garden. Most gardeners are aware of a handful of large-flowered clematis but there are many distinctive small-flowered selections that extend the flowering season into autumn. Richard discusses the identification, culture and maintenance of a variety of large and small-flowered clematis.

E5 Wattle Fence Demonstration– *Tor Faegre*

Learn how to make a simple wattle fence of locally harvested willow. Tor will also show you how and where to collect materials for the fences.

E6 Putting Your Garden to Bed– *Barb Larson*

Fall can be an enjoyable and rewarding time to garden. Discover everything you can do in and with your landscape and garden before it is time to take a long winter’s nap.

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm (F)

F1 Some Woody Plant Diseases– *Jim Schuster*

Jim will discuss some infectious as well as non-infectious diseases of woody plants found throughout the state.

F2 Can’t Miss Small Space Gardening– *Melinda Myers*

Melinda’s talk captures the ingenuity and simplicity necessary for gardening in small spaces. This is the perfect session for gardeners with small lots or those desiring an intimate garden within a larger landscape. **G**

F3 From a Kitchen Garden– *Ellen Ogden*

Repeat of E3.

F4 Proven Perennials for Northern Gardens–
Richard Hawke

The Chicago Botanic Garden evaluates hundreds of perennials in comparative trials every year, looking for the best perennials to recommend to home gardeners and the green industry. Richard will present a variety of proven perennials, including new selections and old favorites, from the last 20 years of trials.

F5 Tuteur Demonstration– *Tor Faegre*

Learn how to make a garden tuteur (pyramid) of willow or other locally gathered materials (buckthorn, maple and dogwood).

G denotes classes which cover “Green” or environmentally-friendly topics.

Meet Our Conference Speakers

Keynote Speaker– Melinda Myers



Melinda, best known for her gardener friendly and practical approach to gardening, has more than 25 years of horticulture experience in both hands-on and instructional settings. She has a bachelor's degree in horticulture from The Ohio State University and a masters degree from the University of Wisconsin– Madison, is a certified arborist and was an instructor at Milwaukee Area Technical College. Melinda has written 9 books including *Can't Miss Small Space Gardening*, *The Birds and Bloom's Ultimate Gardening Guide*, *The Perfect Lawn Midwest Series* and Jackson and Perkins' *Beautiful Roses Made Easy:Midwestern Edition*. She hosts "Great Lakes Gardener", seen on PBS throughout the USA, and "Melinda's Garden Moments" which airs on network television stations nationwide. She is a contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* and *Backyard Living* magazines. For her work, community service and media presence, Melinda has received recognition and numerous awards including the 2003 Garden Globe Award for radio talent and the Quill and Trowel Award for her television work, both thru Garden Writers. She has also received the Garden Communicators' award from the American Nursery and Landscape Association and the 2007 Perennial Plant Association Garden Media Award.

Sue Amatangelo - Sue is a Kane County Master Gardener, assistant superintendent for Horticulture at the Kane County fair & plan commissioner for the city of St. Charles. She was previously the National Retail Accounts Manager & spokesperson for Ball Horticulture. Sue has authored the book *Absolutely Beautiful Containers*.

Patricia Armstrong - Ms. Armstrong is a biologist-ecologist-teacher specializing in studying, evaluating and managing natural and restored landscapes. After earning a B.A in Biology and English from North Central College and a M.S. degree from the U of Chicago, Pat was an interpreter at various nature centers and arboreta. She has developed scores of curriculum materials and conducted field seminars around the world. Currently, she is a consultant, lecturer, free-lance writer and teacher.

Nancy Clifton - Nancy Clifton is an Ornamental Horticulturist with a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Illinois. Nancy was a Plant Information Specialist and now is a Horticulture Program Specialist at the Chicago Botanic Garden. She is also an instructor, floral designer and lecturer for the Garden and other organizations. Nancy has worked at the Garden for over twenty years. She is currently working at WGN studio's 'Botanic Backyard' for the Chicago Botanic Garden's weekly television garden segment.

Donna Danielson - Donna works in the Plant Clinic at the Morton Arboretum. For eight years, she was responsible for the Plant Health Care Report, a weekly newsletter about insects and diseases on trees and shrubs.

Marcus de la fleur - Marcus is an Associate and Registered Landscape Architect with Conservation Design Forum (CDF) in Elmhurst, IL. He received his horticultural degree from the School of Horticulture at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and obtained his Masters in Landscape Architecture at the University of Sheffield, UK.

Marcus has contributed to the design and management of multiple sustainable projects (some of them LEED registered or certified) and has extensive field experience in sustainable technology through his past work in Germany, Switzerland, and Britain.

Bill Doeckel - Bill works for Ball Horticultural Company as the General Manager of Ball Innovations. Ball Innovations is a new division that researches & develops hardgoods complementing Ball's plant products and leading to consumer solutions. Current focus includes sustainable soil additives, plant nutrition and bio-packaging. Bill serves on University of Illinois' External Advisory Committee for Natural Resources, Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

Tor Faegre - Tor is a true artisan who constructs furniture, sculpture and garden structures of twigs and branches. He displays his work at art fairs and galleries and teaches rustic construction throughout the Midwest.

Eliza Fournier - Eliza Fournier has served as the Coordinator of Community Gardening at the Chicago Botanic Garden for seven years. In this time, Eliza helped over 200 communities and schools plan and implement gardens in their neighborhoods. Currently, she coordinates the North Lawndale Green Youth Farm, teaching 15 teenagers how to grow organic produce on an urban farm. Eliza earned her B. S. degree in Environmental Studies from Lake Forest College and her M.S. in Public affairs from Indiana University. Lately, she has been presenting a variety of gardening topics during regular appearances on "Fox News in the Morning" and "Chicago Tonight".

Andrea Green - Andrea is a landscape designer who specializes in perennials and native plants. She promotes community involvement in nature and horticulture through her volunteerism for Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory. Andrea is an artist– her current medium is sumi-e (Japanese ink and brush) exploration of native prairie plants.

Meet Our Conference Speakers

Susan Grupp - Susan is an Environmental Science Educator with University of Illinois Extension. She has B.S and M.S. degrees in horticulture from University of Illinois. Currently she is leading Extension's effort in partnership with the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, to demonstrate sustainable gardening at the museums' *Smart Home: Green and Wired*.

Richard Hawke - Richard has been the Plant Evaluation Manager at the Chicago Botanic Garden since 1987. Richard is the author of *Plant Evaluation Notes* and writes a regular column for *Chicagoland Gardening*. He also writes periodically for *Fine Gardening*, *Horticulture*, *Perennial Plants*, *American Nurseryman* and *NMPro*. Richard is an instructor for the School of the Chicago Botanic Garden and in 2005 he received the Perennial Plant Association's Academic Award for teaching excellence.

Dan Heims - Dan has spent the last 32 years deeply involved in horticulture and travels worldwide to find new perennials. He is the president of Terra Nova Nurseries, Inc., a company noted for its 354 patents and 500 new plant introductions. Dan writes for a number of magazines, has hosted a weekly gardening show on radio (KKSJ) and has appeared on U.S. HGTV and on BBC. He has written a book of horticultural humor called *The Garden Clerk's Dictionary* and one on *Heucheras and Heucherellas*.

Barbara Larson - Barb is a Horticulture Educator and Associate Professor for the University of Wisconsin Extension. Barb works with the Master Gardeners, youth, community groups and commercial horticulturists to green and grow Kenosha County and SE Wisconsin. She joined Wisconsin Extension after 13 years with University of Illinois Extension- Winnebago County.

Dwight Lund - Dwight was born and raised in a family greenhouse business and then attended University of Illinois, earning a B.S. degree in floriculture. Over the next 40 years he held positions as grower, manager, partner and eventually president of the company. In addition, Dwight spent 20 years in education teaching Hort classes at Kishwaukee Community College, served as the Director of the DuPage Horticulture School and worked at Ball Horticulture.

Karla Lynch - Karla is the Manager of Horticultural Education at the Morton Arboretum. She owns her own landscape company called Gardens for People. Karla is also the chairperson for the Tree Preservation Committee for the city of Geneva.

Joan Mazat - Joan is the current Business Manager for pot plants, poinsettias and cut flowers at Ball Horticulture. Previously, she was a grower and production manager at Cerny's Greenhouse of Tomahawk in northern Wisconsin. She is a graduate of the DuPage Horticultural School.

Phil Nixon - Phil Nixon is an Extension Entomologist at University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He has statewide responsibilities for pesticide safety education and the integrated pest management of landscape and household insect pests.

Mike Nowak - Mike is the host of "The Mike Nowak Show" on WCPT 820 AM, Chicago. For a decade before that, he was the host of WGN Radio's "Let's Talk Gardening". He is also a writer and award winning columnist for *Chicagoland Gardening Magazine*. In 2002, Mike founded the Midwest Ecological Landscaping Assoc., with designer Connie Cunningham, which promotes environmentally responsible landscaping practices.

Ellen Ogden - Ellen Ecker Ogden is the co-founder of the Cook's Garden Seed catalog and author of *From the Cook's Garden* cookbook. She designs herb and kitchen gardens and is a food and garden writer for national magazines such *Eating Well*, *Organic Gardening* and *Vermont Life*.

Gene Rotherth - Since 1978, Gene has managed the Horticultural Therapy Services Dept. at the Chicago Botanic Garden. He chaired the design team for the Enabling Garden display which opened in 1999 & has received international acclaim including the 2000 Accessible Design Award from the American Association of Museums. He is a frequent consultant to the healthcare sector on therapeutic landscapes. He has authored two books: *Enabling Gardens: Creating Barrier Free Gardens* and *Health Through Horticulture: A Guide for Using the Outdoor Garden for Therapeutic Outcomes*.

Bill Shores - Bill runs a garden management and design business focusing on intensive, small scale gardening systems. He has over 11 years experience designing and running organic commercial food gardens and teaching intensive gardening techniques. Bill is currently working with restaurateurs Rick and Dean Bayless to develop their Bucktown garden as a working model for commercial urban food production using edible landscaping and intensive gardening techniques.

Jim Schuster - Jim worked as a University of IL Extension Educator in Horticulture for the NE region for almost 38 years before joining the Crop Sciences Department, Pesticide Education in 2007. Jim's specialty was woody plant diseases and he has taught disease and insect classes around the state and in Wisconsin.

Mike Ward - Michael received his PhD from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 2004 and currently is an Associate Research Scientist at the Illinois Natural History Survey and an Assistant Visiting Professor in NRES. He is currently the coordinator of the Critical Trends Assessment Program and studies population dynamics and habitat selection of birds.

Sharon Yiesla - Sharon is a horticulturist with University of Illinois Extension and provides leadership for horticulture programs in Lake County. She has authored a book entitled *Shade Trees for the Central and Northern United States and Canada*.

General Information



Digital Photo Contest

Now is the time to start snapping pictures for the Illinois State Master Gardener Photo Contest. There are Four Categories of entries in the contest: **Plants, Wildlife, Master Gardeners at Work & Illinois Public Gardens.**

Master Gardeners can submit one image per category, and only one image per entrant will be selected to win. Only amateur photographers are allowed to enter and they must submit the entry. Photos must be taken between August 24, 2007 and August 20, 2008.

All entries must be submitted electronically via e-mail to Sarah Navrotski, sarahnav@illinois.edu before August 21, 2008. Images must be submitted as a mail attachment in jpeg format and should be a minimum of 1200 x 800 pixels.

The top entry in each category will receive \$25. All entries will be displayed in a slide show at the Master Gardener Convention.

Accommodations

Registrants are responsible for their own hotel reservations. The designated conference hotel is The Westin, Lombard, IL. 888-627-9031. A block of rooms has been reserved at this hotel at a special conference rate of \$109 for a King or Double room. Please mention the "University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Conference" to receive the discounted rate.

Reserve your room by August 20, 2008, to assure the conference rate.

Reserve your room early as the room block may fill quickly.

To reserve a room online visit the link on the conference website at:

<http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/conference%202008.htm>

Meals

The full conference registration fee includes the Friday evening awards banquet as well as lunches and breakfasts on Friday and Saturday. Thursday night dinner is on your own. Vegetarian meals will be available (please indicate this preference at registration). Please select your entrée for the Friday evening awards banquet— either chicken or fish. Award winners and their guests may register for just the awards banquet if they like.

Registration Fees and Dates

All registrations will be conducted online this year at:

<https://www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/> Preferred payment is by credit card but you may register online and then send a check (due within 7 days from the date you registered). Each attendee must complete their own registration form online.

Master Gardeners (& 1 adult guest):

Early Bird Registration: June 15 to July 31 - \$175 each

Full Registration: August 1 to August 26 - \$200 each

Tours: Half Day - \$20 each, Full Day - \$45 each

Single Day Registrations: Friday \$100 each, Saturday \$80 each

Public:

Full Registration: August 1 to August 26 - \$240 each

Tours: Half Day - \$30 each, Full Day - \$55 each

Single Day Registrations: Friday \$140 each, Saturday \$110 each

Registration closes on August 26.

The full or early bird registration fee includes all classes, handouts, vendors, 2 lunches, 2 breakfasts and the Friday evening awards banquet. Workshop fees are additional. Single Day registrations include classes, handouts and meals scheduled for that day.

Award winners may register for the award banquet only at a fee of \$35.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations will be accepted until August 26 for a full refund. After that date, no refunds will be given (conference handouts will be mailed if requested), but participant substitutions will be accepted until September 1.



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