



For those who share our interest in gardening . . .

February, 2016

Kris Medic, Bartholomew County Extension Educator and Becky Pinto, Master Gardener Newsletter Editor and Advanced Master Gardener, Bronze Level.

"And for the season it was winter, and they that know the winters of that country know them to be sharp and violent, and subject to cruel and fierce storms . . . For summer being done, all things stand upon them with a weather-beaten face, and the whole country, full of woods and thickets, represented a wild and savage hue."

-William Bradford, *Plymouth Plantation*, 1640



Très Riches Heures [very rich hours] du Duc de Berry

Click here to bring up the image, click on the image once, and see full detail:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/02/Les_Tr%C3%A8s_Riches_Heures_du_duc_de_Berry_f%C3%A9vrier.jpg

Time Your Gardening (Why not)?

Some claim “Old Wives’ Tale” and others swear by it, but planting by the phases of the moon is a long-standing tradition. And what can it hurt? If you ask me, we gardeners can use all the help we can get!

Over the years, farmers have adapted planting systems and three lunar gardening have emerged:

The Synodic method tells a gardener when to plant based on the moon’s phase. It is the easiest, most used form of lunar gardening.

The Biodynamic method goes a step further and observes noon’s phases as the moon moves through various constellations. Based on Rudolf Steiner’s observations (1924), root crops grow better when the moon passes through one of the "earth" signs, and leafy plants do best when the moon passes through "water" signs.

The Sidereal method uses the orbit of the moon to determine the optimal time to do your gardening.

Synodic method in a nutshell

The Synodic method makes use of the four phases (or quarters) of the moon. During the waxing moon, light and sap flow increases, while during a waning moonlight and sap flow are drawn down.

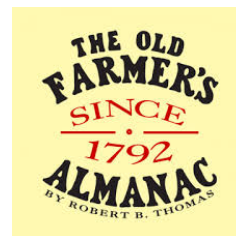
The new moon helps grow strong roots. More water is drawn into the soil, which improves germination. Moonlight increases, and according to ancient wisdom, this is the ideal

time to plant crops which produce seeds outside the fruit (grains, spinach, cauliflower, cabbage, broccoli, celery and lettuce).

The second quarter brings increased moonlight, promising stronger leaves. This appears to be the best period to plant crops with seeds inside the fruit (beans, peppers, tomatoes, squash and melons). The best two days for planting are just before the full moon.

The full moon, and the period that follows it, is characterized by moist soil and decreased moonlight. Root vegetables, such as carrots, beets, onions and potatoes, will flourish. It's also a good time to transplant seedlings or to prune.

The fourth quarter is a resting period when soil moistness and moonlight are at their lowest. Avoid planting and focus on fertilizing the soil. This is the best time to mow grass, harvest, transplant and prune.



So, get your copy of the 2016 Farmer’s Almanac now before planting seeds indoors - or before you commit those young nursery plants to the ground! -BP

Ya Gotta Check Out This Migration Map!!!

Frank La Sorte, lead author of the study of 188 bird species in the Western Hemisphere, captured all of the species' movements for an entire year last year using millions of bird observations from participants in Cornell's eBird and Great Backyard Bird Count programs. The study uncovers similarities in the routes used by specific species, and shows each of their patterns in a unique animated map.

One interesting finding of the study is that bird species that make their way over the Atlantic Ocean during their fall migration in order to reach the Caribbean and South America do so in a clockwise loop; however, on their way back in the spring, this same journey takes place more inland. Some of the species that follow this pattern include bobolinks, Cape May warblers and Bicknell's thrush.

"These looped pathways help the birds take advantage of conditions in the atmosphere," La Sorte said. "Weaker headwinds and a push from the northeast trade winds as they move farther south make the fall journey a bit easier. The birds take this shorter, more direct, route despite the dangers of flying over open-ocean."

Additionally, the study reveals that, just like a jumbo jet might, migrating birds move at a faster pace during spring migration --- even though the path is a more roundabout route --- thanks to strong tailwinds that carry them north to their breeding grounds. Alternatively, for species that avoid flying over open oceans, the study reveals that spring and fall migration routes are the same.

Click on the following clickable link to watch the Cornell Lab's migration map. Observe how the routes change in spring and fall as birds ride seasonal winds to their international destinations.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/mesmerizing-migration-watch-118-bird-species-migrate-across-a-map-of-the-western-hemisphere/?utm_source=Cornell%20Lab%20eNews&utm_campaign=791d17d813-Cornell_Lab_eNews_2016_02_11&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-791d17d813-303049037

Read more: <http://www.hngn.com/articles/173139/20160125/bird-migration-map-new-animated-image-shows-migration-of-188-species-in-western-hemisphere-gif.htm>

-BP

Migratory Birds Threatened by Poor Habitat Protection

Reporting less-than-positive news following research that many scientists have devoted their life to conducting has to be rough. They have to try to stay objective and report findings professionally with great attention to accuracy, while trying to avoid sending shock waves through their audience. But in December of last year, that's just what some of them were forced to do.

Dr. Robert Fuller, Associate Professor and biologist from the University of Queensland, and his colleagues, including PhD student Claire Runge, looked at how well the needs of the world's 1451 species of migratory birds are covered by protected areas. These researchers for the Journal of Science found that only 9 per cent of migratory birds have adequately protected habitat across their range.

The researchers collected information on the movement of all migratory birds species at different times of the year and compared this

with maps of protected areas, such as national parks, wetlands, Arctic tundra, desert environments, savannas and forests.

"We found that more than 90 per cent of species have one or more parts of their lifecycle poorly protected," Dr Fuller said.

Migratory species rely on food supplies being where they need them and when due to the vast distances traveled each year. "Migratory species rely on a chain of good quality habitat all the way along their migratory route; if links in that chain are not well protected...some species might not be able to complete their lifecycle." Dr Fuller said only 3 per cent of threatened migratory species — those on the verge of extinction — have adequately protected habitat.

By comparison, the researchers found 45 per cent of non-migratory birds were protected.

Source:

<http://news.discovery.com/animals/migratory-birds-threatened-by-poor-habitat-protection-151204.htm>

Save the date for the
2016 State Master
Gardener Conference!



Micro-Climates/Big Impact



I was en route to Fair Oaks Mall on the 12th and happened to see many robins --- 30 or more --- enjoying the fruits of the ornamental trees in front of the mall's southern exposure brick exterior. I began to analyze the site for its microclimate features: the building itself provided a northern wind block; the brick construction radiated heat; the fruit-bearing trees provided food and shelter. The only missing element was a birdbath! But, come to think of it, puddles in the parking lot could have sufficed as a water supply. Take note: thoughtfully constructed sites in backyards can be a real lifesaver for feathered friends! -BP

[gardening lunar phases food production.html#ixzz3zmeTEhS5](#)

Learn more on gardening by the moon:

<http://www.naturalnews.com/049610>

Purdue Extension Annual Report



What comes to mind when you think of Purdue Extension? There may be more to us than you realize. Learn all about our organization — and our most recent

accomplishments in the State of Indiana and for the people who call it home — in the **2015 Purdue Extension Annual Report!**

<https://extension.purdue.edu/annualreport/>

Help Needed!

Bartholomew County Master Gardeners are needed to staff **OUR SHIFT** at the **Indiana Flower and Patio Show**, 16 March, 2:30 to 7 pm. John Sohn is signed up, and we have **COMPLIMENTARY PASSES** for seven more Master Gardeners. We would like to have at least two more. This is a first for our MGs! See <http://hsishows.com/wp/indianaflowerandpatioshow/> Contact Kris now.

Our friend Chuck VanNatta needs **help pruning his large orchard NOW**. This would be for education hours for **YOU!**

Planning and support to **Columbus Arbor Day Celebration in late April**. Contact Dick Boyce, dboyce@columbus.in.gov

Assist Kris at two **Native Plant Walks**, 10 am, April 14 and 16. Contact Kris, kmedic@purdue.edu or 812-379-1665

Support to the **Secret Gardens of Columbus Tour**. Contact Nick or Cathy Rush, 812-372-4120 or ncrush@comcast.net

Downtown Farmers Market. Work table promoting Master Gardener and Extension programs on **2 July or 6 August, 8:30-12:30**. Sign up with a partner to make it more fun. Contact Kris.

Assist Sherry Warner at **Foundation for Youth** through spring and summer. Contact Sherry at 812-350-3295 or swarner53@outlook.com

Kudos!

Many thanks to **Amy King** and **John Sohn** for unstinting assistance with the Fruit Tree Pruning Workshops! Except for cancellations in Harrison County due to snow, we have had outstanding weather.

Betty Baker has certified as a Master Gardener!

Recertification

We hope you know by now that you must recertify as a Master Gardener each year. (New Interns, who have two years to get their 35 hours, are the exception.) If you haven't turned in hours or completed a new Application and Agreement in the last year, we have to drop you. Please recertify!



Bartholomew County Master Gardeners

"Master Gardeners help people and communities grow"



Check out our Winter/Early Spring Programs in the Red Room at the Bartholomew County Public Library



JANUARY

Wednesday, January 20, 2016
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Propagating and Using Herbs

Do you know that you can snip fresh herbs throughout the winter by propagating them now.

Sherry Warner, Advanced Master Gardener, will show us how to make quick work of propagating herbs from cuttings for year round enjoyment. Sherry will also talk about exciting ways of using herbs in the kitchen and the home.

Join us in January to learn how to propagate and use herbs year round.



FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 17, 2016
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Master Gardener Volunteer Fair

Hours! Hours! Hours! Stephani Steilberg, Master Gardener, hosts our first Volunteer Fair. Come learn what experienced Master Gardeners do to earn hours and learn about existing projects needing volunteers.

Master Gardener Awards will also be presented!

Among our speakers is Harvey Taylor, Advanced Master Gardener, presenting what he did to start a Junior Master Gardener program. Sherry Warner, also an Advanced Master Gardener, will discuss the FFY garden she maintains and opportunities for volunteers to help her out. Nick Rush, representing a historic downtown neighborhood group, will describe his group's volunteer opportunities coming up in May. Join us to hear about these and other opportunities!



MARCH

Wednesday, March 16, 2016
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Lawn and Turf Care

Jeff Hermes, Decatur County Extension Educator, will provide expert tips and advice on maintaining a beautiful lawn. Jeff will also discuss his work with the Indianapolis Indian's turf management team and what he did to maintain a near picture-perfect baseball playing field. Among Jeff's accomplishments is a degree in Turf Management from Purdue University.

Join us and get your lawn care questions answered



APRIL

Wednesday, April 20, 2016
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Monarch Butterflies

Ray Weatherholt, a retired Science Teacher, Advanced Master Gardener and Indiana Master Naturalist, will discuss Monarch butterflies and how to plan and care for a butterfly garden.

Ray is dedicated to working with butterfly and blue bird habitat in Southern Indiana, and maintains about seven acres of butterfly habitat on his property. In addition to speaking with groups, his education outreach also includes school tours of his property.

Ray comes to us from Sunnyside Master Gardener Association in New Albany, Indiana.

Learn with us all you want to know about our beautiful Monarch butterflies and their habitat.

For more information contact nvncfall@gmail.com



Session attendance earns 2 Master Gardener Education Hours.

Winter/Early Spring 2016 (Modified 03JAN2016)

Hey, Save the Date!

Indiana Flower and Patio Show Bartholomew MG's Shift	16 March 2:30-7 pm	State Fairgrounds
Lawn Care <i>See p. 7</i>	16 March 6-8 pm	BCPL Red Room Jeff Hermesch
Landscape 101 Series begins <i>Winter into Spring</i>	29 March 7-8 pm	BCPL Red Room Kris Medic
Landscape 101 Series <i>Your Trees</i>	5 April 7-8 pm	BCPL Red Room Kris Medic
Landscape 101 Series <i>Edible and Beautiful Landscapes</i>	12 April 7-8 pm	BCPL Red Room Jonas Carpenter
Spring Native Plants Walk	14 and 16 April 10 am	Noblitt Park Kris Medic
Landscape 101 Series <i>Getting Started in the Garden</i>	18 April 7-8 pm	BCPL Red Room Kris Medic
Monarch Butterflies <i>See p. 7</i>	20 April	BCPL Red Room Ray Weatherholt
Landscape 101 Series <i>Top Ten List</i>	26 April 7-8 pm	BCPL Red Room Kris Medic
Secret Gardens of Columbus	21-22 May	Downtown
State Master Gardener Conference	16-18 June	Purdue University

Contact

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Gardening Fair

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

FREE!
ADMISSION

Saturday, March 19th - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Putnam County Fairgrounds
Community Building -HWY 231, Greencastle, IN

Presentations:

- ❖ Ponderosa Aqua Farm-Steve & Missy Carrell -*Aquaponics*
- ❖ Donna Harcourt-*How to Paint Flowers*
- ❖ Moya Andrews-*Continuity of Color*
- ❖ Tavia Pigg-*Butterfly Gardening*
- ❖ Chandler's Farm-Matt Chandler-*Grafting & Pruning Fruit Trees*
- ❖ Indiana Berry & Plant Co. - Sam Erwin-*Lesser Known Backyard Edibles*
- ❖ Master Gardener -Damaris Zehner-*Gardeners and Self-Sufficiency Past, Present, and Future*

Vendors!

*Unique items
for your gardens
and outdoor areas!*

**Kids'
activities!**

**FREE trees
and goodie
bags to the
1st 200
attendees**

COME JOIN us for a full day of
Gardening ideas and Products!

**Gardener's
Seed Sale**

**Door prizes
ALL DAY**

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