

**Subject:** SWIMGA NEWSLETTER April 2017  
**Attachments:** SWIMGA Newsletter 04-2017.pdf; PlantExchange.jpg

Dear SWIMGA members,

Attached see the NEW and IMPROVED SWIMGA newsletter, produced by our new newsletter editor, Tiffanie Hedin. Tiffanie is a brand new Intern, and jumped into the deep end of the volunteer pool to take over this project. I want to thank long-time editor MaryAnn Block for her many years of working on the newsletter and forcing me to get my articles in by the deadline.

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A few late items that have crossed my desk:

First: our phones are working AT THE MOMENT. They have been flickering on and off for a week now. Email is still the best way to get a hold of me.

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### **Ag Days, Vanderburgh County**

I am really needing people to sign up to work at Ag Days at the Vanderburgh 4-H Center on April 11-13. We need folks from 9 am to 1:30 pm (we provide the lunch). Most people will be serving as “tour guides,” so other than keeping the teachers pointed in the right direction, there is no knowledge needed. I will also need a couple of people to help me with “Math on the Farm” exhibit.

I also need several people with strong backs (and weak minds...) to help with the setup on Monday, April 10, starting at 9 am. We will be moving tables, fences, and setting up livestock pens. We are usually done by 11.

Contact me at the Extension office to sign up.

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### **Master Gardener State Tour**

The Monroe County Master Gardener Association, Purdue Extension-Monroe County, and the Purdue MG State Office are co-sponsoring the 2017 Purdue Master Gardener State Tour, June 16, 2017 in Monroe County, Bloomington, IN!

This event is open to Purdue MG volunteers and County MG Coordinators.

Registration opens March 20, 2017! Online registration and more information about the tour can be found at [www.mcmga.net](http://www.mcmga.net) .

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### **Using Social Media as a Master Gardener**

From John Orick, Purdue MG State Coordinator

With the increased use of social media by Purdue Master Gardener Associations, I thought I would share the Purdue College of Ag social media guidelines as well as some resources developed by the Extension Master Gardener Social Media team.

Purdue College of Agriculture Social Media Guidelines:

<https://ag.purdue.edu/extension/communication/Pages/socialmedia.aspx>

Extension Master Gardener Social Media Training Site:

<https://sites.google.com/a/extension.org/social-media-resources/welcome>

Extension Master Gardener Social Media Exchange Facebook Page (a closed group for MG Coordinators and volunteers interested in using social media as part of their roles in Extension Master Gardener programs).

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/371199296300994/>

Thanks for all your work!

John

***John Orick***

***Purdue Master Gardener State Coordinator***

***Purdue University***

***Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture***

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***[orick@purdue.edu](mailto:orick@purdue.edu)***

***<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/>***

***<https://www.facebook.com/purduemastergardener>***

***<https://twitter.com/PurdueMG>***

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### **Plant Exchange Opportunity**

I am the Martin County coordinator for the Perennial Exchange, a group of people that have been meeting twice a year to exchange plants for 25 years. Our next meeting is

May 13 in Bedford. We will all show up (about 60 or so of us) with carloads and vans and trucks full of plants, and each of us will display them on a table. At around 9 AM the trading will start, and by 10 AM all the plants will be claimed and placed in the cars, trucks and vans of the people that want them. It all goes quickly and peacefully. The swap is followed by business meeting, guest speaker, lunch, sometimes garden tours, and is generally a fun day. Membership is \$10 per year, and the individual swap is usually ten dollars also, most of which goes for our lunch and the continental breakfast and the building rental. The Perennial Exchange began in Greene and Monroe Counties, and they happen anywhere from Martinsville to Shoals. Another one will be scheduled in the fall.

As a county coordinator I could sign you up free for a year if you would like to attend the one May 13. You would get the spring invitation which would give you the exact starting time (EST) and maps to the swap location. All you would have to do is show up with some plants to trade. You could bring along a non-member if you would like (they would pay for the swap itself, but not have to be a member.) We like to have new people because they always seem to bring things the rest of us don't have. Please reply if you are interested.

Karen Whorrall  
812-388-6639

[Application form is in the attachments – Larry]

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### **Errors in the Directory**

The following people have asked me to share the following corrections:

Ken Dossett's correct email is: [dossettken@gmail.com](mailto:dossettken@gmail.com)

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### **MG Manager**

Hopefully, those of you with email have already signed into the new MG Volunteer Manager, so that you can record your own hours on the Purdue database.

Oops...just checked. There's only about 74 of you who have done this. And I know we have 268 of you who get this email newsletter, so you have to know something about computers. Check your last MG Alert for instructions. Let's all try to get going on this, m'kay?

Those of you who HAVE already signed up...thank you! The next time you log in, you will see an alert message, asking you, among other things, to include an emergency

contact name and phone number. Also, the annual agreement that you need to sign has now been placed online. You can access this from your home page.

While you're checking this out...I would appreciate it if a few of you would go back and "neaten up" your pages. That is...capitalize your names, put your correct last name in (I'm looking at you, Grant), that kind of stuff. We will be using this data page eventually for all of our badge/certificates and other mailings, and I want this to be correct (unless, Grant, you WANT your name badge to include your password...).

After the plant sale, I will have the data entry team work on putting in your historic hours and your current name badge level. Once that is completed, I'll have you log in and check to be sure we did this correctly.

In the Newsletter, there is a page for those of you who DO NOT WANT TO SET UP YOUR OWN COMPUTER ACCOUNT. For those folks, put in the information required (plus an emergency contact, even though we didn't ask for it on the page) and mail that to me. We will create your page for you.

Thanks!

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