

January – July 2019

Dear Gardening Enthusiast,

Thank you for your interest in the **Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program**. Past participants have indicated this was a great experience for them. I think you'll count it as a valuable, worthwhile and fulfilling life experience.

Purdue Extension's 2019 Master Gardener Basic Training class for Noble and Whitley Counties will be held Thursday mornings (plus two Mondays), 9:00 a.m. until noon, beginning Sept. 16 (see enclosed *preliminary schedule*). Classes for the bi-county training will be held alternatively (switching every week) at Purdue Extension offices in Noble (Albion) and Whitley (Columbia City) Counties.

The cost of the class for an individual will be \$150. Couples in the same household sharing the same material (primarily one copy of the Master Gardener manual) may attend for \$230 (\$115 each). This is for supplies, class expenses incurred, and name badges you will wear while volunteering as a Master Gardener, not tuition. You will keep many valuable resources at the end of the class, including a Master Gardener student manual (over 600 pages) and many handouts. You will have the *option* of purchasing a flash drive (electronic) version of the manual for an additional \$25.

Please plan ahead! Steps to successful enrollment:

- **By July 31:** Fill out and submit an application (see "Application and Agreement Form"). Read "Purdue Master Gardener Program Policy Guide."
- **By July 31:** Provide verification of identification (show us your driver's license in person in the Extension office)
- **By Aug. 31:** After we conduct screening process (by first week of August), successful applicants will be notified how to officially enroll in the class and pay online through a system called "cvent." Arrangements can be made to pay in person at the Extension office with check, if you would prefer. Aug. 31 is final deadline for class enrollment and payment.
- **Sept. 16:** First class

Tuition takes the form of volunteer hours rather than dollars. The main focus of volunteer hours is *teaching others*. The completion of **40 volunteer hours** (approximately one hour of volunteer work per hour of class work) is required to become a certified Master Gardener. Those who take the class and pass the final exam (70% and above) are considered interns until the volunteer requirement is met.

If you have further questions about the program, please call 260-244-7615. Don't miss out!

Sincerely,



John E. Woodmansee
Extension Educator
Agriculture/Natural Resources



Enclosures: 2019 Preliminary Basic Training Schedule
Purdue Master Gardener Volunteer Application and Agreement
Purdue Master Gardener Program Policy Guide