

Garden Variety News

October 2003

A publication of the Morgan County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.

Web site: www.mcmastergardeners.org



“Helping Others Grow”

Special Guest at December Meeting

Wednesday, December 3, 6:00 p.m.
Fairgrounds in the 4H building

Special Guest Speaker—Chris Parker has arranged for **Peggy Sellers**, State Master Gardener Program Coordinator, to speak at our December meeting on the new State Convention and Master Gardener Program! We hope to have guests from several other clubs attending. This will be our **Holiday Finger Food Pitch In**. Please try to join us to learn about the exciting new directions the State Master Gardener program is taking. Everyone try to wear your Master Gardener nametags to the meeting and make our guests welcome with some good holiday treats.

Anyone wishing to meet earlier to make table decorations or help with hospitality, please contact Leslie Thompson. (765) 352-1822

DUES DEADLINE

December 3, 2003, is the **deadline** for paying your Morgan County Master Gardener dues. Anyone not paid by this date **will be removed** from the mailing

list. You can bring your \$5.00 dues to our December 3 meeting or mail with your survey to our Treasurer, Tom Ulsas, at: 1168 N. Letterman Road, Paragon, IN 46166. We will also have sign-up sheets for available committees for your required three hours of volunteer service.

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings! Having accepted the position of president for one more year (my final by the way) I just wanted to let you know briefly, what my goals are for this coming year.

- I would like to establish a connection with the state program and have as many members as possible attend the state's first **Master Gardener Convention** in summer of 2004.
- Plan a **public education day with our Pansy Sale**.
- I would like to focus us a bit more on education.
- I think it would be good to plan our **meetings at the fairgrounds** with an educational program of some sort if possible, even if it is just members sharing a favorite plant or vegetable or tip. That way we can keep an eye on the garden and everyone knows where to go, rain or shine.
- Plan a **monthly activity** where we meet at the fairgrounds and carpool it to a fun activity like a garden center or garden.
- Start taking attendance and have nametags so that everyone can **get to know each other better**. Included in this newsletter is a **survey that we will use to make a directory for our members** that will also help us get to know each other and what we are interested in.

- How about one Saturday a month during the summer have an “ask the Master Gardener” time at the fairgrounds garden where people can come and get answers to questions? Say 10:00 a.m. – noon, two people, we can use extension resources and if we don’t know the answer we write it down and let them know.
- I want to pursue accumulating information and making a decision on an **irrigation system** for the fairgrounds to make the summer watering less of a burden.

That is really quite a bit but with your help and your opinions and ideas I’m sure we can accomplish some of these goals. Please let me know what you want, it’s your club. Leslie Thompson

ARE YOU AWARE?

The extension office has always copied, folded, made labels and provided postage and paper for our newsletters. Thank you Betty Kenworthy! With budget cuts in the extension office, a motion will be made at the December meeting to fund our own postage and paper costs. The extension office will allow us use of the copier for our future newsletters. Treasurer, Tom Ulsas, will present a proposed budget for a vote at the December meeting.

SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

September 3, 2003

OPENING

SECRETARY’S REPORT - not available

TREASURER’S REPORT - Balance \$2,355.81

OLD BUSINESS

FAIRGROUND FLOWERS

Work Date for Clean Up and Bulb Planting - **November 8th, 2nd Saturday 9am-noon**

A budget of \$50 was voted approved for the purchase of bulbs, you can also donate if you’d like to and bring for planting November 8th

We are going to explore the possibility of a timed watering system for the fairground flowers, as

hauling the hoses and doing it is becoming a major commitment.

NEW BUSINESS

PANSY SALE

2004 Flowers need ordered and the members voted to proceed with the order. Planting will be the 2nd week of January 8 and 9th at Goodwill Greenhouse. We can meet at the fairgrounds and go up together.

LADYBUG AWARDS

We have ordered ladybug pins to be awarded for participation as an officer, committee chairman, or involvement in a project beyond required hours for internship or advanced MG requirements. You can wear these on your vest or just collect them as a thank you for your service.

CROSS SCHOOL

Dee Terrell reports that Cross School still looks good, most of the mums from last year are doing well. He also mentioned the Soil and Water Conservation Tree Sale that is going on at present.

ELECTION

2004 Officers are as follows: President, Leslie Thompson, 3rd and final year, Vice President was graciously accepted by Peg McGuire, Secretary, Karen Padgett, Treasurer, Tom Ulsas, Journalist, Debbie Parsons, Board of Directors, Ann Lankford, Terry Bunton and Barb Szigethy Many thanks to these generous people for their service to the Club.

Purdue Advanced Master Gardener Training Oct. 25.

Next Meeting 1st Wed. December, 6pm - Holiday Finger Food Pitch In.

UPCOMING ADVANCED MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

Hendricks County Master Gardeners Association
Advanced Master Gardener Training
Saturday, October 25, 2003
4H Auditorium, Hendricks County Fairgrounds,
Main St. (Across from Hendricks Co. Hospital)
Danville, Indiana

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Registration** 8:00 a.m.
\$35 includes continental breakfast and lunch for those who pre-register by Oct. 21

Speakers:

- Kate Copsey-English Gardens-An Historical View
- Lynne Jenkins-Avoiding Mid-Summer Fizzle
- Gene Bush-Ten Months of Bloom in the Shade Garden
- Harrison Flint-Plant Nomenclature
- Louise Taylor Smith-Growing Lavender in the Midwest

For more info or to register:

Master Gardeners Advanced Training Registration
 Hendricks County Extension Office
 955 E. Main St.
 PO Box 7
 Danville, IN 46122-0007
 317/745-9260
 www.HendricksGardeners.com

NOTE: If you plan on attending, please contact Leslie Thompson. She is looking to carpool and/or get a caravan together for our group.

The Recycler

Wanted: Okra recipes. Bring to next meeting or Contact Leslie Thompson at: 765/352-1822 or palm@iquest.net

If you have something garden related you are looking for or are interested in selling, please send to: Debbie Parsons, 5869 S. Haasetown Rd., Morgantown, IN 46160, or terrazzo@scican.net.

FAIRGROUND FALL WORK DATE SET

Clean Up and Bulb Planting

Saturday, November 8, 9:00 a.m.-noon, we will be having a work date at the Fairgrounds. Our focus this fall will be on **daffodils only**. \$50 worth of daffodils will be purchased along with bulb food. Feel free to donate more daffodils and bring your tools. Cider, Coffee and donuts will be available.

STATE CONVENTION

Mark your calendar! The Purdue Master Gardener Program Annual Conference will be held in West Lafayette on June 25-26, 2004. More details will follow as they become available.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

- Indiana School for the Blind-Greenhouse. Contact is Elizabeth Garvey.
- Purdue Extension Office-Answering garden related questions from the public. Contact Chris Parker at 342-1010.
- Morgan County Fairground Flower Gardens-Watering and weeding. Contact is Ann Lankford at 765/342-8097.
- Adopt A Cemetery-Contact Dale Drake at ddrake@iupui.edu or Helen Wildermuth at helen@rnetinc.net.
- Goodwill Greenhouse-Contact Peggy McGuire at PMcGuire@goodwill-indy.org.

AREA LINKS

Our Website – www.mcmastergardeners.org

Purdue University Master Gardener Program
<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/>

Indiana Museum of Art Garden and Grounds -
<http://www.ima-art.org/imagardens.html>

Indiana Gourd Society -
<http://www.netusa1.net/~twill/index.html>

Indiana Native Plants and Wildflowers Society -
<http://www.inpaws.org/>

White River Gardens –
<http://www.whiterivergardens.com/>

Journalist (Debbie Parsons) can be contacted at terrazzo@scican.net or 5869 S. Haasetown Rd., Morgantown, IN 46160. Info and/or articles are always welcome.

OCTOBER LAWN AND GARDEN CHORES

By Rosie Lerner, Purdue Consumer Horticulture Specialist

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

Keep plants, especially newly planted stock, well-watered until ground freezes.

Have soil ready to mound roses for winter protection. Do not mound or cover roses until after leaves drop and soil is near freezing, usually late November or early December.

Strawberry plants need protection from winter's extremes, but applying winter mulch too early may cause crowns to rot. Apply winter protection when plants are dormant but before temperatures drop below 20 F, usually late November or early December.

Rake or shred large, fallen tree leaves, such as maple, to prevent them from matting down and smothering grass. Raking smaller leaves, such as honey locust, is optional.

Continue mowing lawn as needed.

Garden (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 F) humid location. Storing produce in perforated plastic bags is a convenient, easy way to increase humidity.

Harvest Brussels sprouts as they develop in the axils of the leaves from the bottom of the stem. Brussels sprouts will continue to develop up the stem.

Harvest pumpkins and winter squash before frost, but when rind is hard and fully colored. Store in a cool location until ready to use.

Harvest gourds when stems begin to brown and dry. Cure at 70-80 F for two to four weeks.

Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost, and ripen indoors in the dark. Warmer temperatures lead to faster ripening.

Asparagus top growth should not be removed until foliage yellows. Let foliage stand over winter to collect snows for insulation and moisture.

Remove plant debris from the garden to protect next year's planting from insect and disease buildup. Compost plant refuse by alternating layers of soil, plant material, and manure or commercial fertilizer.

Have garden soil tested for fertilizer needs every three to five years.

Plowing and incorporating organic matter in the fall avoids the rush of garden activities and waterlogged soil in spring. Fall-prepared soils tend to warm faster and allow earlier planting in spring.

Carve a Halloween jack-o'-lantern.

Dig tender, garden flower bulbs for winter storage. Gladiolus corms should be dug when leaves begin turning yellow. Caladiums, geraniums and tuberous begonias should be lifted before killing frost. Dig canna and dahlia roots after a heavy frost. Allow to air dry, then pack in dry peat moss or vermiculite, and store in a cool location.

Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.

THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY NEWSLETTER BEFORE OUR DECEMBER MEETING, SO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Morgan County Master Gardener's Member Dues and Survey Sheet

Name of Member _____ MG Class Year _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Status of Membership ___ Intern ___ Certified MG ___ Advanced MG

Current Job/Position or are you retired _____

Please Mark the following with an "I" to indicate that this is an area of interest you would like to know more about or "K" for an area that you may have a bit of experience or knowledge in that you might be able to share with others in the club or public.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Starting Seeds | <input type="checkbox"/> Propagating Plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Ponds/Lakes | <input type="checkbox"/> Identifying Trees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Identifying Insects | <input type="checkbox"/> Identifying Disease | <input type="checkbox"/> Herb Gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fragrant Plants | <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly Plants | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardy Annuals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardy Perennials | <input type="checkbox"/> Container Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardens for Handicapped | <input type="checkbox"/> Starting a Veg Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Mazes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biblical Plants | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydroponics | <input type="checkbox"/> Lasagna Gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pest Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Color Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Veg Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tool Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Cover | <input type="checkbox"/> Composting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulbs for Spring | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Critters | <input type="checkbox"/> Herbarium |

Others _____

Who is your favorite garden center and where is it located?

Where is your favorite garden in Martinsville?

Where is your favorite garden in central Indiana?

Where is your favorite gardening web site?

Do you think we meet often enough?

COMMITTEES (or Positions) YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN

OFFICER ___ President ___ Vice ___ Treasurer ___ Secretary ___ Bd. Of Directors

___ Publications (Newsletter) ___ Website ___ Publicity

___ Hospitality ___ Fairground Flower Maintenance ___ Travel & Activity

___ Pansy Sale ___ Public Education ___ Meeting Programs ___ MG Adv. Education

Other Comments: