

Garden Variety News

February 2004

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

Web site: www.mcmastergardeners.org



"Helping Others Grow"

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting—Wednesday, March 3, 6:00 p.m., at Hummingbird Heaven, 110 W. Washington St., Martinsville, 765/349-1949. Tina Chafey will give a presentation on everything we want or need to know about hummingbirds. Hummingbird Heaven has over 2,000 hummingbird-related items and the upstairs is dedicated to antiques. There will be two (2) kinds of cakes, hummingbird and chocolate, cookies, coffee, tea, water, and lemonade available for \$4.00 per person, if you wish. We will also have a raffle for our door prize. We have lots to discuss with our upcoming Spring Garden Festival scheduled for March 27, 2004. Everyone try to wear your Master Gardener nametags to the meeting. With new members and visitors, our nametags ease the process of keeping names and faces together (at least for me they do!).

SPRING GARDEN DAY

Here is your chance to let some of that pre-Spring gardening energy out! Our Spring Garden Festival, March 27, 2004, is based on a "Top 10" theme. Would you like to do an educational Top 10 poster? Some posters already in the works include Top 10 Bad Garden Insects, Top 10 Good Garden Insects, Top 10 Annuals, and Top 10 Perennials for Sun, Top 10 Perennials for Shade, Top 10 Wildflowers, Top 10 Butterfly Plants. Some other ideas might be Top 10 Lawn Care Tips, Top 10 Garden Tools and their Care, etc... Be creative and have, at least, 25 handouts. Leslie Thompson has found foam board for \$1.97 and display board for \$3.97 at Wal-Mart, so cost is minimal. Great way to get some hours and we still need volunteers!

SPRING GARDEN FEST NEEDS YOUR RECYCLABLES

Anyone wishing to donate: old gardening tools, garden magazines/newspapers, vases, houseplants, pots, flower seeds, yard art, etc., please bring these items to our meeting. This will give us an idea of what inventory we will have on hand and how to arrange it for our Garden Shed Market booth. Nancy Manly's husband has generously agreed to do clean-up/refurbishing work on items you bring in. Donations can also be dropped off by 8:00 a.m. on March 27th.

COMMITTEE SIGN-UP & VOLUNTEER HOURS

Dr. Peggy Sellers, Coordinator of the Indiana Master Gardener Program at Purdue, explained the newly established Master Gardener Program criteria at our December meeting, which includes additional education and volunteer hours for Active Status in the program.

We have committee sign-up sheets at our Master Gardener meetings and your Master Gardener meetings count as educational hours. We also have a card file system now available at the meetings to help us all keep track of our hours.

ALL-AMERICA WINNERS FOR 2004

If you're looking for something new to add to next year's garden, All-America Selections (AAS) has chosen five new flowers and three vegetables for 2004. These new cultivars have been judged superior in their class based on their performance in test gardens all over the country.

Two new Celosia cultivars head this year's list of winners. 'Fresh Look Yellow' is a low-maintenance, colorful addition to the bedding garden, sporting large, golden-yellow plumes that reach up to 9 inches

these new cultivars are excellent as fresh or dried cut flowers, as well.

The petite 'Limbo Violet' petunia moves away from the "wave" of trailing petunias. Reaching a mere 6-7 inches tall and up to 12 inches in spread, 'Limbo Violet' will not require any pinching or pruning to maintain its tidy, well-behaved form. Despite its dwarf size, the large 2-3 inch single blooms will shout with velvety, violet color.

Another dwarf that towers in color is Hollyhock 'Queeny Purple', the shortest *Alcea rosea* and the first purple hollyhock available as a single color (not part of a mixture). The 3-4 inch blooms feature a cushion center with a frilly edge. Yet, the plants reach a mature height of only 20 to 30 inches.

Gypsophila 'Gypsy Deep Rose' is an annual baby's breath with delicate, rose-like blooms. The mounded plant habit reaches up to 10 inches tall with a slightly larger spread. 'Gypsy Deep Rose' thrives best in full sun and adapts well to the container garden.

For the vegetable garden, Melon 'Amy' is an early, yet high-yielding, specialty melon with smooth, bright, golden-yellow skin indicating it's ready for harvest. The juicy, white flesh has great flavor and aroma with a relatively small seed cavity. 'Amy' will produce melons in 70 to 80 days from transplanting on vigorous spreading vines.

Watermelon 'Sweet Beauty' packs sweet flavor and crisp texture into a small, "ice-box"-size package. Weighing in at 5 to 7 pounds, these oblong melons, with dark green skin and medium green stripes, are the ultimate in convenient, single-serving size. But the plants are far from compact, spreading about 8-10 feet in the garden! 'Sweet Beauty' melons are ready to pick about 77 to 80 days from sowing seed directly into the garden.

Winter squash 'Sunshine' boasts a bright orange-red skin surrounding the 3- to 4-pound, flattened-globe fruit on semi-compact vines. The bright orange, smooth-textured flesh is sweet and nutty in flavor. 'Sunshine' is ready to harvest about 95 to 100 days from sowing seed or 80 days from transplants.

AAS winners are selected from many new cultivars, based on garden performance, as well as, performance in the greenhouse. Although no plant offers a guarantee of success in an individual garden, the AAS winners have proven themselves worthy over a broad range of growing conditions. Try these new selections alongside your old standbys so you'll have a means of comparison. AAS winners should be available through local garden centers and mail order catalogs this spring. For more information

about these and previous year's winners, point your Web browser to <http://www.all-americaelections.org/>.

Writer: B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist; from Vanessa Puckett, News Secretary, Dept. of Agricultural Communications

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The Master Gardeners met at the Morgan County 4H Building December 3rd. The annual pitch-in of finger foods was enjoyed while the program was set up.

Peggy Sellers from the Indiana Master Gardener Program at Purdue gave the program explaining the newly established criteria for Active Status of the Master Gardener, as well as, showed samples of the updated materials. Active Status now includes six (6) hours of education; meetings are credit and 12 hours of volunteer service. Advanced certification requires ten hours of training, actually four more than previously, and 25 hours of volunteer services, which is 13 more. She also gave a brochure to explain the status of Master Gardener, Advanced Master Gardener, Bronze, Silver, and Gold Status. The website will have links to this information.

Chris Parker presented the organization with a "Friend of the Fair" plaque from the Fair Board. He also presented badges to Cindy Riley, Nancy Manly, Michelle Losh and Kelly Conder. He expressed the need of a helper at the classes this coming year.

Leslie Thompson began the business meeting by thanking Nancy Manly for the Chili Peppers and Pete McKay for sharing publications he received from Waterloo. The first order of business was discussion of the Garden Fest, tree giveaway, and Pansy sale. A meeting on Feb 4th will be held to begin organizing.

The Fairground Committee suggested an irrigation system using soaker hoses, and a hydrant at the women's building.

It was discussed to hold most of our meetings at the fairgrounds, and an increase of dues to cover the costs of mailings.

Tom Ulsas has made a database for e-mail. He made a budget proposal that was approved.

Trena Trusty needs input for the destination of the trip, Chicago or St. Louis, and when.

Many members won door prizes. The president wished everyone Happy Holidays as the meeting was adjourned. *Submitted by Karen Padgett, Secretary MCMG*

Many members won door prizes. The president wished everyone Happy Holidays as the meeting was adjourned. *Submitted by Karen Padgett, Secretary MCMG*

RECYCLE

After purchasing a paper shredder, what is a great use for the shredded paper? One is to till it into the soil in your garden. The other is to add shredded paper to the soil used for planting trees and shrubs. In each case, it holds moisture and breaks down to enrich the soil. *This tip was sent in by Betty Kemworthy. She read about it in her Southern Living magazine.*

UPCOMING ADVANCED MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

Saturday, February 21, 2004

Kosciusko County Master Gardener Association
Advanced Master Gardener Training (6 hour credit)
Center Lake Pavilion, Center Lake Park
Warsaw, IN

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Registration 9:00 a.m.

\$35 Fee, (\$25 Fee if registered before February 13) includes lunch and handout materials

You do not have to be a Master Gardener to attend. Several local garden suppliers and crafters will also be in attendance with their wares.

Information call: (574) 372-2340

Speakers:

- Dr. Judy Loven, USDA Wildlife Biologist-Controlling Nuisance Wildlife
- Dr. Peggy Sellers, Purdue MG Coordinator-Gardening for the Health of It
- Louise Reneker, Allen County MG-So, You Want an Herb Garden?
- Jeff & April Pulley Sayre-Native Plants for Birds, Butterflies, and Blooms
- Louise Taylor Smith-Growing Lavender in the Midwest

Saturday, February 28, 2004

Gibson County Advanced MG Training
Gibson County Fairgrounds
Princeton, IN

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Registration 8:00 a.m.

\$35 Fee, (Registration is due before February 20) includes continental breakfast lunch and handout materials \$40 Fee for non Master Gardeners

Information call: (812) 385-3491 or www.aice@purdue.edu

Speakers:

Ted Kroeger, Kroger Greenhouses and Water Garden Nursery-Hardy Water Garden Plants and their Care

- Stephen J. Swain, Purdue University-Garden Accessibility for People with Disabilities and Those of Us Who are Getting Older
- Chris Gunter, horticulture specialist-The Ins and Outs of Greenhouses for Gardeners

- Nancy Hastings, Hastings Plants-Preparing New and Existing Beds for Perennial and Annual Gardens

Saturday, March 27, 2004

Madison County Advanced MG Training
Madison County 4-H Fairgrounds
Alexandria, IN

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Registration 8:30 a.m.

\$30 Fee, (Registration is due before March 19) includes lunch and handout materials

Information call: (765) 641-9514 or orick@purdue.edu

Speakers:

- Doyle Stohler, Advanced MG, Madison County-Gardening in Small Spaces
- Doug Allen, President, Hoosier Orchid Society-Growing Orchids in the Home
- Louise Reneker, Allen County Advanced MG-Herb Gardening at its Best
- Rosie Lerner, Purdue University, Dept. of horticulture and Landscape Architecture-What is Organic Gardening?

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.

MASTER GARDENER 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.



MORGAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER'S present

Spring Garden Day & Pansy Sale

*March 27, 2004
8am-2pm
at Morgan County Fairgrounds*

The day will include:

- *Community Tree Seedling Giveaway**
- *Annual Pansy Sale**
- *Garden Shed Market of new/used sale items**
- *"Top 10" Gardening Tip information sheets
on perennials, annuals, vegs, bugs, & more**
- *FREE SOIL TESTING**
- *Vendor booths of garden related items**
- *Door Prizes and a Raffle**

*Refreshments will be available



Morgan County Master Gardener Assn., Inc.

A Non-Profit Organization

will host a

Spring Garden Festival

At the Morgan County Fairgrounds

March 27, 2004

8am-2pm

We are seeking vendors to sell garden related products or services.

The festival will feature the Club's Annual Pansy Sale, Community Tree Seedling Giveaway, Free Gardening Information, A Garden Shed Market of recycled gardening items and Vendor Booths. We have chosen a theme this year of "Top 10" and will be creating our educational information on posters with handouts based on Top 10, instead of having speakers. This allows attendees to browse and take information that interests them without specific time constraints. Examples of Ideas for Top 10's are Top 10 Shade Perennials, Top 10 Sunny Annuals, Top 10 Tools and Their Care, Top 10 New Things That Make Gardening Easier, Top 10 Garden Pests and What to Do About Them, Top 10 Butterfly Plants, 10 Ten Lawn Care Tips, to give you an idea of the concept. It would be great if the vendors would like to make up their own "Top 10" products or handouts.

You might want to limit what you bring to just 10 things. We usually sell nearly out of our 500 pots of pansies in this short amount of time.

Booth Rental is \$20 for a 10 x 10 space.

For further information or to Register to Participate call
Master Gardeners, Leslie Thompson, (765) 352-1822 (palm@iquest.net) or
Tom Ulsas (765) 537-2594 (tulsas@yahoo.com)

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS MARCH 1ST

Detach and send registration and \$20 check made out to Morgan County Master Gardener, Inc. to Tom Ulsas, Treasurer, 1168 N. Letterman Road, Paragon, IN 46166

Name of Vendor _____ Phone _____

Type of Items offered _____

Amt. Enclosed _____ Email _____

Will you be participating in a "Top Ten" theme for your booth? What subject?