

GARDEN VARIETY NEWS

A publication of the Morgan Master Gardeners Association, Inc

Web site: www.mcmastergardeners.org

NOVEMBER 2005



"Helping Others Grow"

NEXT MEETING—Thursday, December 1 at 6:00pm in the downstairs meeting room of the County Administration Building. Please bring a covered dish as this will be a pitch-in meeting. We will have a business meeting.



DUES—Are \$10.00 and due at the December meeting. If you can't make the meeting, you can make a check payable to: Morgan County Master Gardeners and send it to: Neta Phelps, 1185 Hinson Rd, Martinsville 46151



2006 NEW OFFICERS—At the September meeting, the election of new officers took place. They are:

President.....Ann Hume
Vice President.....Marlene Maxwell
Treasurer.....Neta Phelps
Recording Secretary.....Mary Barco

Congratulations to our officers and thanks for all the hard work that you do to make the Master Gardener Association a successful program.



NO!

**No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member -
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds -
November!**

- Thomas Hood

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!—Trena Trusty is working on our annual Master Gardener Trip. Right now it looks like it will be May 11 and 12 (Thursday & Friday). This is a first; we will be taking a 2 day trip to Michigan.

The trip will entail a stop at a winery, attending the Tulip Festival on Thursday, and on Friday there will be a plant sale and trip to Meijer Gardens. Not all details are complete yet, but will be forthcoming.

The trips are always wonderful, so plan to attend if you can.



REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING A MASTER GARDENER—To become certified as a Master Gardener, participants must complete the training program, pass an examination administered by the local Cooperative Extension Educator, and volunteer a minimum of 35 hours, representing the Purdue Master Gardener Program. After completing the training program and passing the final examination, participants will be recognized as Master Gardener **Interns** until completion of the volunteer commitment. You may join the Morgan County Master Gardener Association while working on your volunteer hours and Master Gardener certification.

Master Gardener Certification: Upon completion of the volunteer commitment of at least 35 hours. Interns will receive a certificate from Purdue University through their local program coordinator verifying that the participant has completed the requirements of the Master Gardener Program.

MASTER GARDENER CERTIFICATION(CONT)

Active Status: Once an individual has completed the necessary requirements and is certified as a Master Gardener, this does not mean he/she is a Master Gardener for life. Master Gardeners must recertify each year to remain on the “active” list and maintain the Master Gardener title.

Master Gardener Recertification is achieved by fulfilling the following requirements:

1. Donating a minimum of twelve (12) hours of volunteer service each year, and
2. Completing a minimum of six (6) hours Educational Training through any of the following options:
 - Participation in State, Regional, National, or International Master Gardener Conferences.
 - Participation in county-sponsored advanced training sessions.
 - Participation in any other programs approved by the local Program Coordinator.

Advanced Master Gardener Certification: Once a Master Gardener has fulfilled their commitment of volunteer hours, they are eligible to work towards Advanced Master Gardener Certification. State Guidelines for advanced certification require at least ten hours of approved additional instruction as well as a minimum of an additional 25 hours of volunteer service.

Other levels of Advanced Master Gardener status include Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

Award	Cumulative Volunteer Hours	Cumulative Education Training Hours
Master Gardener	35	35
Adv M. Gardener	60	45
Bronze	200	60
Silver	500	75
Gold	1000	100

HOLIDAY TOURS—Morris-Butler House, 317-636-5409, 1204 N Park Avenue, Indianapolis historiclandmarks.org/what/mbhouse/mbhevents.html

Victorian holiday tea Many of our most beloved Christmas traditions became popular in the Victorian era, including the Christmas tree. Another favorite indulgence dates back that far too—afternoon tea. Enjoy the elegant trappings of a Victorian Christmas Tea at the Morris-Butler House. Tour all three floors of the 1865 landmark, lavishly decorated for the holidays, and learn about Victorian Christmas traditions both familiar and unfamiliar. The tour ends with old-fashioned flavored teas, scones, cucumber sandwiches, and seasonal treats and the making of a special holiday craft—an event guaranteed to usher in a meaningful holiday season. **Saturday, December 3 and 10**, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Cost is \$27 per person (\$25 for Historic Landmarks members). Reservations required.

28th Annual Old Fashion Christmas Walk—Indiana State Museum—Whitewater Canal State Historic Site
Nov 25—Nov 27; Friday and Saturday 10am—10pm
Sunday 10am—5pm
www.in.gov/ism/

A First Christmas 2005 - Columbus, Indiana, First Christian Church

November 25, 26, and 27; December 2, 3 and 4
www.fccoc.org/spotlight/firstchristmas.html

This will be the 6th and final year for this program. “A First Christmas” begins with a recreated to-scale Dickens’ Village with six buildings reflecting mid-19th century London. Through period costumes, language, structure, and vibrancy, Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol is presented. Your tour will then lead you back over 2,000 years to Bethlehem at the time of Christ’s birth. Meet Mary and Joseph as you travel through the commotion of the city. Listen to the shepherds and Wise Men tell their story as they journey and tend to their camels. Then join us in the café and enjoy some of the 10,000 cookies our volunteers have baked for you.

Our average attendance has been over 9,200 each year, with the peak attendance in one year being 12,200. While this has been a gift to the community of Columbus, our statistics have shown that we have welcomed guests from 15 states and from as far away as the original London, England.

Tickets are \$5 each, with children five and under free. However, no guest will be turned away. If you are in need of complimentary tickets, please contact the church office.

2006 MASTER GARDENER CLASS—The next Master Gardener class will start Thursday, January 19 and run through Thursday, March 30. The classes will be held in the County Administration Building. This year is a day-time class (9:00am—Noon); cost will be \$80.00. Sign up will again be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Past participants are welcome to sit in on any of the classes that they would like.



ON LINE GARDEN CATALOGS—Before you know it, the holidays will be over and you'll be ready to plan your garden. You may never order anything, but you love looking at garden catalogs. Here's a partial listing of some catalogs on the web that you can have mailed to you if you feel like you don't have enough mail, or you can just go on-line and check out the different sites. Some catalogs may be virtual only.
www.backyardgardener.com/shed/

Check out this site for reviews of gardening by mail by logging on to the Garden Watchdog Guide:
[//davesgarden.com/gwd/](http://davesgarden.com/gwd/). Please remember that the Extension Office cannot verify anything on these sites.

Seeds

[Seeds of Italy](#)
[Exhibition Seeds](#)
[Angelgrove Tree Seed](#)
[Florabunda Seeds](#)
[Burpee](#)
[Ferry-Morse Seeds](#)
[Seeds of Change](#)
[The Flowery Branch](#)
[Dominion Seed House](#)
[Johnny's Selected Seeds](#)
[J.W. Jung](#)
[Pinetree Garden Seeds](#)
[Park Seed](#)
[Stokes Seeds](#)
[Territorial Seed Company](#)

Heirlooms and Rare Plants

[Mt. Tahoma Nurser](#)
[Thimble Farms](#)
[Wayside Gardens](#)
[Glasshouse Works](#)
[Cook's Carnivorous Plants](#)
[Niche Gardens](#)
[Nichol's Garden Nursery](#)

[Collector's Nursery](#)
[Plant Delights Nursery](#)
[Alpine Nurseries](#)

Water Gardening

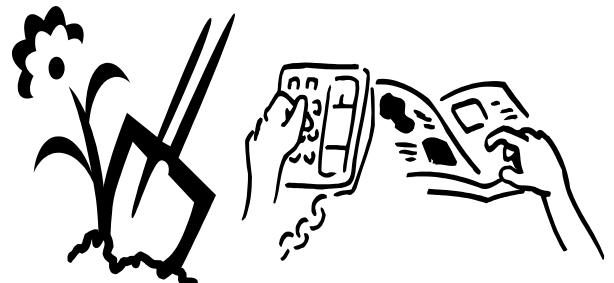
[Lilyblooms](#)
[Lilypons](#)
[Paradise Water Gardens](#)
[Pond Filtration](#)
[Pond Care](#)
[Slocum Water Gardens](#)
[Daydreamer Gardens](#)

Herbs

[GardenGuides.com](#)
[Bobba-Mike's Garlic Farm](#)
[Purple Haze Lavender](#)
[New Growth](#)
[Richter's Herbs](#)
[Companion Plants](#)
[Mountain Valley Growers](#)
[No Thyme Productions](#)

Nursery

[Tranquil Lake Nursery](#)
[Cross Country Nurseries](#)
[Heronwood Nursery](#)
[Klehm Nursery](#)
[Frida's Landscape Design and Nursery](#)
[Plants of the Southwest](#)
[Graceful Gardens](#)
[Allen Plant Company](#)



FALL GARDEN TIP—Final Turf Trim

It's a good idea to cut grass shorter in the fall than in the summer. Lowering the setting on your mower one or two notches, especially for the last mowing offers two major benefits: Shorter grass doesn't mat down during winter rains and snows. Matting can lead to disease and big problems come spring. A shorter lawn makes leaf cleanup much easier. On a windy day, many of the leaves may simply blow away! When you put the mower away at the end of the season, remember to reset its cutting height to a higher setting.

Keep the Color Going

The trick to designing your garden with perennial flowers is making sure you have something wonderful in bloom all the time. Each season has its stars and fall blooming perennials have some of the best. Fall blooming perennials have all season to grow, so many of them are tall and stately. Fall bloomers also tend to blossom in the jewel tones of the season, deep purples, rusts, scarlet and gold. For fall bloomers to be hardy in your garden, you need to plant and establish them earlier in the season. Here are some top picks for fall blooming perennial stars.

Aster novi-belgii (Michaelmas Daisy) In shades of pink, purple, blue and white, these delicate daisy-like blossoms start popping open in late August and continue on until frost. Pinching in the early summer turns these Asters into mounds with dozens of flower buds. Asters will tend to creep throughout your garden, but their airiness allows them to blend particularly well with other flowers. Zones 4 - 9

Caryopteris (Blue Mist Shrub) Caryopteris is a sub-shrub that is often grown in the perennial garden. Caryopteris slowly blossoms in August with dazzling blue flower clusters. Just try and keep the butterflies and bees away. Caryopteris is cut back in early spring, like a Buddleia, and the gray-green foliage is attractive all season. Zones 5 - 9

Chelone (Turtlehead) Nick-named for their blossoms shaped like turtles heads, Chelone is a carefree fall blooming perennial whose only real dislike is excessive dry heat. Chelone behaves itself, growing in a dense clump with attractive foliage and red, pink or white blooms. Zones 2 - 9

Chrysanthemum There are many varieties of mums, not all particularly hardy. The plants sold in the fall as 'Hardy Mums' should have been sold to us in the spring, to be reliably

hardy in the north. However we wouldn't have had the patience to plant them and wait. Mums and pumpkins are the flag bearers of fall. Try and get your potted mums in the ground ASAP. Keep them well watered and mulch once the ground freezes and you'll stand your best chance of having truly hardy mums. Zones 3 - 9

Eupatorium (Joe Pye Weed) Joe Pye is one of those natives we take for granted because we see it by the side of the road, but it makes a wonderful backdrop to a garden border. The newer Eupatoriums have been bred shorter and less weedy but the dense mop heads of mauve flowers still blend in beautifully in the fall garden. Zones 2 - 9

Helenium (Sneezeweed) Helenium is making a resurgence in gardens. They look like small russet-toned coneflowers, in reds, yellows and oranges. Many helenium can grow quite tall and will need to be staked or pinched. Like clematis, they like cool feet and hot heads. helenium is also a good choice for poorly drained areas. Zones 3 - 9

Helianthus (Perennial Sunflower) Helianthus is a good natured, jolly plant, branching and flopping on its neighbors. The brilliant gold fluffy daisy-like flowers make an instant focal point and attract butterflies and birds. Helianthus tend to be sterile and can be reproduced by division. Zones 3 - 9

Heliopsis (False Sunflower) Heliopsis is very similar to Helianthus. Heliopsis tends to begin blooming earlier in the season and stays on for 8 or more weeks. Newer varieties have been bred smaller and sturdier, for less flopping. Zones 3 - 9

Sedum (Stonecrop) Sedum 'Autumn Joy' comes as close to perfection as any plant can. It looks good all year, requires minimal attention and attracts few problems. It's only drawback is that it is not deer resistant. 'Autumn Joy' has been joined in the garden by a growing number of fall wonders like: 'Bertram Anderson', 'Brilliant' and 'Matrona'. No fall garden is complete without sedum. Zones 3 - 9

Solidago (Goldenrod) Goldenrod is finally getting the respect it deserves, especially with introductions like 'Fireworks' and 'Golden Fleece'. Unlike the native solidagos that spread everywhere and never stood up on their own, these newer varieties are sturdy and cock full of fall blooms. Zones 3 - 9