



Garden Variety News

A publication of the Morgan County Master Gardener Association, Inc

October-November, 2007
www.mcmastergardeners.org

OFFICERS 2007 -2008

Nancy Manly,
President
duckynorma@yahoo.com
765-349-1233

Theresa Hawkins
Vice-President
765-342-3236

Neta Phelps
Treasurer
Phelps342@sbcglobal.net
765-342-3297

Ruth Peloch
Secretary
pelouch@sbcglobal.net
765-342-9151

COMMITTEES

Ann Lankford
Fairground Flowers
gourdgal@scican.net
765-342-8097

Cindy Vogel
Membership Vogel-family@sbcglobal.net
765-349-8944

Trena Trusty
Travel
trustygarden@ccrtc.com
317-996-2746

Ginger Voyles
Social
vvoyles@scican.net
765-342-3593

Marilyn Bickley
Spring Garden Fest
bickley@scican.net
765-342-9890

Terry Bunton
Webmaster
buntont@comcast.net
317-831-9794

Patricia Proctor
Communications
pproctor@wild-roses.com
317-831-7466

CALENDAR

First Thursday of most months is the Business Meeting. It is open to all members and invited guests.

11/01/2007 – 6:00 p.m.
Business Meeting to be held at the Morgan County Fairgrounds in the Wilbur Kendall Room; Basics of Master Gardening and review of the State Conference; Recycling.

Volunteers will be asked to hand-out Christmas Tree Fliers again this year. The fliers advertise the Master Gardener Program and will be stuffed in live Christmas trees on November 17 and December 1. Nancy Manly will have information at the meeting.

12/01/2007 – Victorian Christmas Planter project for Mooresville IN. Trena will report on this project at the November meeting for a volunteer opportunity, but it involves planting greenery in the permanent planters in town for the annual Victorian Christmas event.

12/3 & 4/2007 (Two Days) Wreath Making Workshop conducted by Trena Trusty – Open to the Public; we will make wreaths for the libraries and for other locations as needed. Cost to be determined. See Trena Trusty's article for more information and additional volunteer opportunities.

12/06/2007 – 6:00 p.m. **Christmas Party Potluck** at the Administration Building in downtown Martinsville; Spouse or Guest Welcome; White Elephant Garden Gift Exchange for voluntary participation; \$10.00 limit on gift. The **East Middle School Choir** will perform. The MCMG Association will make a small donation to the Music Department to show appreciation, and possibly make favors to hand out.

January, 2008 – No meeting

NANCY'S NOTE

Hello Gardeners,

I tried very hard to think of positive things to say about this past growing season, but I will just say this; Mother Nature is always teaching us Gardeners new lessons. Next year I'm sure we will be prepared for cold, frost, freeze, heat and drought.

Please try to attend our November meeting. We will be reviewing Master Gardener Policies that are the basis of our Association.

The December meeting is our Christmas Pitch-in so think of some real yummys to bring.

*Yours,
Nancy*

Earn Volunteer hours and Educational Hours in One Activity!

HOLIDAY WREATHS FOR THE LIBRARIES

By Trena Trusty

This project was so popular last year that we will repeat it again this year; only we have a new twist by having it open to the public as a workshop.

The first workshop will be on Monday, **December 3 from 6-8 p.m. at the Mooresville Public Library**; the second one will be on **Tuesday, December 4, from 6-8 p.m., at the Morgan County Public Library.**

(Continued on next page)

Wreaths (continued)

You can help out with this project in several ways: three to five volunteers will be needed at each workshop to help with set-up, clean-up, and to assist participants. Some of the volunteers will also be making the wreaths for the libraries. We would also greatly appreciate the donation of evergreen plant material cut into 6-8" pieces. This can include the following: pine, hemlock, spruce, arborvitae, juniper, holly, chamacyperis, English ivy, pinecones, and anything else that you may have that would look good in a wreath.

We will be purchasing the wire forms, paddle wire, ribbon and additional greens if needed. Please contact Trena Trusty, 317-996-2746, if you can volunteer to work at either of these workshops or can donate evergreen material. This will count as one hour of educational time and up to three hours of volunteer time. There will be a fee for participants to cover the cost of materials. Workshop volunteers will not be charged for participation. More details will be available at the November Master Gardener Association meeting.

Here are two new volunteer opportunities:

November 6, 2007
2:30 - 4p.m. at East Middle School Environment Club meeting.

Activities include learning about seed saving, putting the garden to bed for the winter, and planting bulbs. Contact Doug Reynolds, 342-6675 ext. 9.

Tentatively December 3, 2:30 - 4 p.m., East Middle School Environment Club.

Activities include learning about winter garden care, winter bird feeding, and cover crops. They will finish putting the garden to bed at this meeting, too. Contact Doug Reynolds, 342-6675 ext. 9.

November Garden Calendar

*By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist
Purdue University*

As houseplant growth slows, apply less fertilizer and water. If plants are dropping many leaves, move them closer to sunny exposures, such as west- and south-facing windows. Artificial lights may be needed to supplement particularly dark rooms.

Pot spring-flowering bulbs with tips exposed to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.

Continue dark treatment for poinsettias by keeping them in complete darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily until early December or until red bracts begin to show.

YARD - Prevent rabbit and rodent feeding damage by erecting physical barriers, such as metal mesh (one-quarter-inch) hardware cloth. Pull mulch a few inches away from the trunk, as the mulch provides a

warm winter home for rodents. Chemical repellents also are available, but their effectiveness is temporary and not foolproof.

Prevent frost cracking (or sunscald) by wrapping trunks with commercial tree wrap or painting the south- and southwest-facing sides of the trunk with white latex outdoor paint. Young, thin-barked trees, such as maples and many fruit trees, are especially susceptible. Be sure to remove the tree wrap by early spring to prevent overheating of the bark.

Remove dead, diseased or damaged branches.

Protect the graft union on rose bushes by mounding soil around the plants and adding mulch on top. Wait until several killing frosts have occurred so plants will be dormant when covered. Plants covered too early may be smothered.

If you are planning to order a "live" Christmas tree, prepare its planting hole before the soil freezes. Mulch the area heavily to prevent freezing, or dig the hole and put fill in a protected, nonfreezing area, such as a garage or basement. Clean up and discard fallen leaves and fruits around fruit plants to reduce disease carryover.

Continue mowing lawn as needed. As tree leaves fall, run them through your mower (remove bagger), allowing the shredded leaves to remain on the lawn. Be sure to mow only when grass and leaves are dry.

An early November application of fertilizer can help keep lawns green into winter and boost early spring recovery. Apply one-half to 1 pound actual nitrogen, in either water-soluble or slow-release form, per 1,000 square feet of lawn.

GARDEN - If frost hasn't taken your garden yet, continue harvesting.

Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost and ripen indoors in the dark. Store at 55-70 F; the warmer the temperatures, the faster they ripen.

Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 F), humid location. Use perforated plastic bags as an easy way to increase humidity.

Remove plant debris, both crop and weed, from the garden and discard or compost. This will help reduce the carryover of diseases, insects and weeds to next year's garden.

Fall tilling, except in erosion-prone areas, helps improve soil structure and usually leads to soils warming and drying faster in the spring, thus allowing crops to be planted earlier.

Apply mulch to strawberries to prevent winter injury or death to their crowns. Wait until temperatures have hit 20 F to be sure plants are dormant. If mulch is applied too soon, the plant's crown can rot.

Dig and store tender flowering bulbs and keep in a protected location.

Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.

Write an Article for Certification Hours

You can write a gardening article for this newsletter to receive certification hours.

Email articles for the newsletters to Patricia Proctor at pproctor@wild-roses.com in word format. Please include source references to the extent possible. If accepted by the executive board, you will receive credit toward certification. Document time spent by clicking on the upper left hand corner of the document at "FILE"; Click on "PROPERTIES"; Click on "STATISTICS". Minutes are recorded under Total Editing Time. You may also include time spent in conducting research for the article.