

Garden Variety News

A publication of the Morgan County Master Gardener Association, Inc

April 2008

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VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

From Trena Trusty

EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL - As an addition to Nancy's volunteer time (See the meeting notice), I would like to let everyone know that on Tuesday afternoons from 2:30 to 5 Ruth Pelouch and I are working on the courtyard garden at East Middle School in Martinsville with a group of 10-12 kids. We did some cleaning up yesterday and planted clematis, butterfly bush ferns, cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, carrots, radishes and violas. The kids are a delight to work with and learn so much from us. On Tuesday, April 15, we plan to plant the trees over at Smith Elementary. We are still in need of a sycamore seedling. On the 22nd (Earth Day), the kids will be treated to pizza during our work session. Please contact me if you want to get hours in with this project. It completely fits the goal of the Master Gardener program. Trena Trusty 317-996-2746

LINK OBSERVATORY - Ruth Pelouch and I are working with IU and the Indiana Astronomical Society through the Indiana Daffodil Society at the Helen Link daffodil planting. I am lining up volunteers to spend two or three hours at a time on site to visit with people who come to visit the daffodils. We talk to them about the history of the Links and about daffodil biology and care. This will last through the month of April with the gates open from 9 am to 7 pm daily. I am mostly interested in volunteers for the weekends, but during the week is also available. I had about 20 visitors during a 3-hour period on Monday morning this week. Complete volunteer information is available on site, so you don't have to already know everything. Please let me know if you can spend some time on this project and I will put you on the schedule. Call Trena Trusty 317-996-2746

PURDUE TO SPONSOR EARTH DAY INDIANA ON APRIL 26, 2008

When: April 26, 2008
Time: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Where: American Legion Mall

The American Legion Mall is located in downtown Indianapolis at North Street between N. Meridian & N. Pennsylvania St.

Purdue Agriculture is sponsoring Earth Day Indiana 2008!

On the final Saturday of every April, thousands of Hoosiers head to downtown Indianapolis to attend one of the nation's largest Earth Day festivals.

The Earth Day Indiana Festival combines 100 environmental and conservation exhibits with live music from some of Indiana's best new bands, special activities for kids and good food. An estimated 20,000 people attended the 2007 Earth Day Indiana Festival.

For more information:

<http://www.earthdayindiana.org/news.html>

MAY MEETING NOTICE

The MAY Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Morgan County Fairgrounds.

This meeting will be a combination work meeting, followed by a gardening questions and answers session. Bring gardening questions, problems and concerns as well as your expertise to help problem-solve.

Wear work clothes, bring gardening tools and gloves, and plan to work on the flower beds.

FAIRGROUND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Nancy Manly is planning regular workdays to replant and redesign the flower beds at the fairgrounds. Please contact her ASAP with your availability to work.

GARDENERS DIG GARDENFEST **By Marilyn Bickley**

If you missed The Morgan County Master Gardeners GardenFest & Pansy Sale the weekend of April 4 and 5 at the Martinsville National Guard Armory you missed a stellar event. Nearly 1000 pansies can be seen throughout Morgan County due to the efforts of this busy group of gardening promoters. Four hundred new trees will probably be planted this week. Vendors from as far as Bedford, Franklin and Indianapolis attended. Some brought unique, hand wrought iron products; others handcrafted gourd birdhouses and even a gourd Christmas Nativity. Garden decor was prominently displayed and Ace Hardware was there with a full showing of fountains and other gardening supplies. Service providers were present to explain tree removal, irrigation systems, and the rental of gardening equipment and to offer landscaping ideas. Pond installers and mulch and stone suppliers attended. Of course there were plants. One could purchase everything from onion sets and perennials to cymbidium orchids.

The speaker sessions were well attended. Jim Barbour, retired Marion County Extension Educator, discussed Lawn Preparation and Care. If you'll just maintain a lawn at a height of 3 inches and fertilize in the Fall you'll be on the way to a lawn lovers' dream.

Organic gardening was addressed by Art Sherwood of Local Indiana Food Enterprises. Because of the importance of light, air, water and the fact that gardeners have little control over these aspects of gardening most of us are already on our way to being organic gardeners. The main difference between traditional gardening and organic gardening is how the soil is prepared. The organic gardener uses compost, mulch and organic fertilizers as opposed to chemicals. Weed and disease control is another area of contrast. A healthy plant growing in a loose, rich soil will be able to fight off disease problems and a mulched garden will smother the weeds.

Neale and Lee Merriman of Merriman's Orchids and Tropicals discussed growing and propagating orchids. Neale explained that anyone can grow orchids. In order to be successful just tell the orchid breeder which



direction the window faces in which the orchid will grow. Lighting requirements vary and there is an orchid for every level of light. Humidity can be added by filling a broiler pan with water. Set the orchids on the pan's slotted lid. Lee showed a flask of two year old orchids plants. There were 200 plants in a 4 to 5 inch flask. They couldn't have been more than half an inch tall. Depending on the variety it can take an orchid from 5 to 20 years from seeding to bloom. This is why orchids sell at the prices they do. For the breeder of orchids it's a long, patient process to get an orchid to market. Some orchids though can live to be 100 years old. Orchids grow on all continents.

The Art of Drying and Pressing Flowers was the theme of Nancy Goodnow's presentation. Nancy is a Martinsville artist. Floral art numbers among her accomplishments. In the past Nancy has pressed flowers in everything from a Sears Catalogue to a wooden press. Her newest discovery is the Microfleur Fower Press which is used in the microwave. She compared drying flowers in the microwave as revolutionary as using a cell phone versus a landline phone. After demonstrating how to use the Microfleur press she created a floral picture so the audience would learn the art from start to finish.

If you attended the Morgan County Master Gardeners GardenFest and Pansy Sale, thanks for your support. If you missed the event this year, plan on attending in 2009. We've already started planning next year's event.

OTHER EVENTS

Marion County Class Registration Information

- Marion County
Contact: [Steve Mayer](#) 317-275-9305 Ext. 286
Purdue Extension-Marion County Classroom, 6640 Intech Blvd, Indianapolis, 18 3-hour sessions, \$95 registration fee
 - Day Class #2008-3: Wednesdays, 9am-4 pm (1 hour lunch break), October 1-December 10, 2008
 - Evening Class #2008-4: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-9 pm, October 1-December 10, 2008
 - For more details and registration information:
<http://IndyMG.org>

Training Opportunity

- April 26, 2008
Garden Expo 2008
Presented by Tippecanoe County Master Gardener Association & Purdue University Extension, Tippecanoe County
Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds
1010 Teal Road, Lafayette, IN
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

An opportunity to display your products or services, as well as find sources for quality plants, gardening tools, essential supplies, and new items. (Non-profit organizations will not be charged for a booth.)

Worthington Indiana Plant Auction

- Sat, Apr 26, 2008
- **Location:**
Worthington Garden Club, Worthington, 812-875-3986.
- **Description:**
Fill your garden with healthy, well-established plants donated by experienced gardeners. Ask advice and enjoy free food as you bid on the newest addition to your landscape.