



Garden Variety News

A publication of the Morgan County Master Gardener Association, Inc

March 2008

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April 4 & 5, 2008 – Garden Fest and Pansy Sale

By Marilyn Bickley

Our Morgan County Master Gardeners GardenFest and Pansy Sale will be held **April 4 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** and **April 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** It will be held at the National Guard Armory, 1900 Hospital Drive, Martinsville.

Three hundred tree seedlings from the Indiana State Nursery in Vallonia will be given away. These trees consist of 100 river birch, 100 persimmons and 100 bald cypress. Come early to choose your favorite. Chris Parker, Morgan County Extension Agent, and Jim Barbour, retired Marion County Extension Agent, will be available not only to answer your gardening questions, but to offer you solutions to those tough gardening problems. Soil samples will be analyzed for those bringing soil samples. We plan on over 40 vendors selling a wide range of gardening products. We will feature everything from perennials, vegetable plants, pond supplies, fountains, mulch, and garden decorations to orchids and etc. etc.

In addition, we have four speakers on the agenda. Nancy Goodnow, a local artist, will discuss drying and pressing flowers and their use. Jim Barbour, a former Marion County Extension Agent will discuss lawns from seeding to enjoyment. Art Sherwood, with I.U. and Local Indiana Food Enterprises (LIFE), will speak on organic gardening. Last, and not yet confirmed, is Russ Vernon of New Vision Orchids. He is a leading authority on orchids. I spoke with him just Wednesday and Thursday, when he told me he is still checking his calendar. He is trying to include us in his schedule. He attended last year as a vendor and he is more than willing to return and to be one of our speakers.

Rev. Boodt, president of the Central Indiana Orchid Society, is also available to talk about growing orchids in our homes.

There is much more to tell you about GardenFest. A local tearoom will sell food during the two-day event. The crowd is great.

Vendor space is 10' x 10'. We provide one table, banquet size, and one chair per booth space. Cost is \$40.00 for the 2-day event. Set up is April 4 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

If you are interested in renting a booth space or you know some one who may be, please contact Marilyn Bickley at 765-342-9890 or by email at bickley@scican.net or call Ann Hume at 317-831-9809.

We will need every member to volunteer. For MCMG this is a major event. We cannot do this without everyone's help. At the March meeting, there will be a volunteer sign up sheet. We will also be calling you to volunteer. If you need hours, this will count. If you are already a Master Gardener or Advanced Master Gardener this will count for your yearly hours. Don't hesitate. Not only is this our biggest event, it's fun!



MARCH MEETING NOTICE

The March Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Jerry Pfeifer residence.

6:00 p.m. Christmas Tree Tour (outdoor presentation weather permitting)

6:30 p.m. Care and Upkeep of Gardening Tools (indoor presentation)

See page 4 for additional information and driving directions. Please plan to carpool to avoid parking problems.

GARDENING WITH TRENA TRUSTY



Cincinnati Flower Show

Join us on Monday, April 21 as we take a small group to the Cincinnati Flower Show. Trena Trusty and Karen Padgett will be providing transportation for up to 10 more additional people. Time and place of departure will depend on who signs up to go. Tickets for the show are \$14 if you reserve by February 29. They may still be that price after the 29th, but the website doesn't say. You should also plan to help pay for gas expense and meals at the show. If you haven't been to this show before, we can tell you that it is great! There are lots of garden displays, plants and garden products for sale, beautiful floral designs and so much more. It does involve a bit of walking, but there are lots of rest stops and we can make arrangements to have a wheelchair for you. This is a trip for association members, but you may bring a friend or two with you if we have room. Trena also plans to stop by the new IKEA store if everyone in her vehicle is up to the side trip. Please call Trena Trusty at 317-996-2746 to reserve a spot for this trip.

Annual Bus Trip is Set for August 15

This year's trip is a very special treat. We'll be visiting Ball Seed Company's test gardens during the peak of the summer season as well as beautiful Cantigny Park, former estate home of Colonel Robert McCormick. The test gardens at Ball have been transformed in recent years from the standard ground level rectangles to display beds complete with hardscaping and containers. You'll see tests of annuals and perennials that may come on the market within the next few years. Cantigny Park has a great assortment of display gardens along with two museums and trails. McCormick Museum is a historic house museum that depicts the country home of a family that made the *Chicago Tribune* the "World's Greatest Newspaper." First Division Museum showcases the famed 1st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. Brochures for this bus trip will be available at the Garden Fest in April.

For more information about each of our destinations, visit the following websites:

Ball Seed Company

www.ballseed.com (Click on Ball Seed under Professional Growers, then select The Gardens at Ball under Grower Info.)

Cantigny Park - www.cantigny.org

Volunteer to Help at the Mooresville Library Gardening Series

The following series of gardening classes have been scheduled at the Mooresville Library and volunteers are welcome to come help. You can also come attend for additional training hours. Volunteers are needed to help with set up, passing out information, hands on help, and clean up. If you are interested please contact Trena Trusty at 317-996-2746 to sign up.

Saturday, February 23 1-3 p.m. - Houseplant Care and Rejuvenation (Led by Trena)

Thursday, March 13 3:30-5 p.m. - Children's Seed Starting program (Led by Trena)

Thursday, March 13 6:30-8 p.m. - Adult Seed Starting program

Thursday, April 17 6:30-7:30 p.m. - Pesticides with Chris Parker

Tuesday, May 13 6-7:30 p.m. - Fabulous Outdoor Planters (Led by Trena)

Monday, June 16 3-4:30 p.m. - Children's Bug program with Keith Trusty

Volunteer Opportunities at East Middle School

The courtyard garden is cleaned out and ready for the new season. The students met recently to discuss their plans for this year's plantings. There will be several opportunities to work with the students after school in April, May and into June. If your schedule allows for 2:30 - 4:30 in the afternoon on weekdays, please contact Trena Trusty to get on the volunteer list for EMS. The work there is based on weather conditions and school activities. Trena will try to put together a standard schedule closer to that time.

Wylie House Heirloom Seed Sale March 1

We are constantly working to improve and expand our Heirloom Gardens at the Wylie House. Beginning March 1, 2008, we are pleased to offer the following varieties of seed for sale to the public. All of our seeds are grown without the aid of chemical fertilizers or pesticides and all have been germination tested. The seeds are \$1.50 per packet if bought at the museum, \$2.00 if ordered through the mail. Checks should be made out to Indiana University/Wylie House Museum. We have a limited quantity of some seeds. Remember! Our annual seed sale will be on **Saturday, March 1, 2008 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.** If you cannot attend this event, the remaining seeds will be available at the museum store during our regular business hours or by mail order. Go to www.indiana.edu/~libwylie/seedBuy.html for more information. The Wylie House is located at 307 E. Second Street, Bloomington, IN 47401. **Trena Trusty will be going to this sale at 10 a.m. Her trip will include the sale, a walk through the museum and lunch in Bloomington. If you would like to go along give her a call at 317-996-2746.**

Some varieties listed below are linked to images of the plant with a brief description. * denotes a variety new to us this year.

Flowers

African Marigold
*Ageratum
*Arika Sunflower
Balsam
Baptisa
Blackberry Lily
Black-eyed Susan
Calendula
California Poppy
Candytuft
China Aster
Cleome
Cups and Saucers
Diablo Cosmos
*Double White Stocks
Giant Cockscomb
Hopi Red Dye Amaranth
Horminum Salvia
Lavendar-Pink Columbine
Lemon Mint
Love-in-a-Mist
Obedient Plant
Outhouse Hollyhock
*Pansy
Pink Spiked Celosia
Plains Coreopsis

Purple-top Verbena
Red Spider Zinnia
Snow on the Mountain
Straw Foxglove
Tassel Flower
Texas Sage
Woodland Nicotiana

Herbs

Chives
Clary Sage
*Double Flowered Feverfew
Elecampane
Feverfew
Horehound
*Lemon Balm
Marshmallow
Rue
*Tansy
Valerian

Vegetables

*Ananas d'Amerique a Chair Verte Melon
Arugula
Asparagus
Black Mustard
Bull Nose Pepper
Cayenne Pepper
*Cherokee Purple Tomato
Cherokee Trail of Tears Bean
Cimmaron Lettuce
Connecticut Field Pumpkin
Cowpea
*Dipper Gourd
Lazy Wife Bean
Long of Naples Squash
Luffa Gourd
Napoleon Pepper
Prickly-seeded Spinach
Prince Albert Pea
Ragged Jack Kale
Red Cherry Sweet Pimento Pepper
Red Orach
Riesentraube Tomato
Risser Sugar Pea
*Russian Cucumber
Scarlet Runner Bean
Scarlet Turnip White-tip Radish
*Shishigatani Squash
Star of David Squash
Tennis Ball Lettuce
*Tom Thumb Lettuce
White Icicle Radish
White Currant Tomato
*White Scallop Squash

Oliver Winery Meeting Recap



The February meeting was held at Oliver Winery, located North of Bloomington, IN. The meeting was held outdoors in the vineyard, where Bernie Parker, the Vineyard Manager, demonstrated the pruning of grapevines. He told us that most of the vines are trimmed back to just two buds, but the more fragile vinifera varieties are trimmed to 5 buds and then pruned again after all danger of frost. During the winter, the vinifera vines are laid on the ground and covered for protection from the weather, and even with those precautions, they usually only produce fruit 2 years out of every 5. He told us that the grapes may be pruned anytime after they go dormant, and that we do not have to wait until February to begin the task of pruning. He said that the best flavored grapes are the ones that have adequate sun on the buds, and for that reason they heavily trim back foliage and vines and have all rows running north and south so the vines have the full spectrum of sunlight as it travels from the east, across the south, and to the west. We toured the winery and Mr. Parker gave a more detailed presentation on growing and harvesting grapes. We thoroughly enjoyed the meeting and learned a lot.

DO YOU WANT TO WORK AT THE HARVEST? No stomping of grapes is required! Mr. Parker said that the grape harvest begins about the 3rd week of August. If anyone is interested in helping with the harvest, you may contact him to be placed on the email list for notification. The winery phone number is 812.876.5800. **There are also 2 positions listed at the Oliver Winery website at www.oliverwinery.com.**

MARCH MEETING NOTICE

Let's Talk Tools at the March Meeting

The next meeting of the Morgan County Master Gardeners Association will be **Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.** in the shop at **Jerry Pheifer's home in the Monrovia area.**

Bonus session – Tour and discussion of the Pfeifer Christmas trees. Arrive by 6:00 p.m. for a tour of the Pfeifer Christmas trees.

Mr. Pheifer has a Stihl dealership and will have lots of great garden and landscape maintenance tools for us to learn about. We will also talk about

tool maintenance such as learning how to sharpen a shovel or pair of pruners. You are welcome to bring your tools along and sharpen them as you learn. You can also bring power garden tools about which you have questions. There will be plenty of garden tool advice for the new or seasoned gardener at this program.

See the included map for direction to the Pfeifer home. We also ask that you make every effort to **carpool** with other Master Gardeners to come to this meeting, as parking will be a bit limited. There will be a business meeting following the tool program. The April GardenFest will be discussed, and volunteers will be recruited for work assignments.

Driving Directions: The Pfeifer residence is located at 6824 N. Tutterow Road, Monrovia, IN.

From Martinsville - Go north on SR 39 from SR 67 about 4 miles. Turn west on SR 142 and go .7 mile to Tutterow Road; turn right. Go north on Tutterow Road about 1 mile to destination.

From Monrovia - Go south on SR 39 to SR 142. Turn west and go .7 mile to Tutterow Road; turn right. Go north on Tutterow Road about 1 mile to destination.

From Mooresville/Centerton - Take SR 67 south to Centerton. Turn west onto Robb Hill Rd. Continue through to SR 142. Go west on SR 142 .7 mile to Tutterow Road; turn right. Go north on Tutterow Road about 1 mile to destination. **From Eminence** - Go east on SR 142 to Tutterow Road. Go north on Tutterow Road about 1 mile to destination

OTHER MEETING DATES

APRIL – NO MEETING

APRIL - 4 & 5 – ALL MEMBERS AND INTERNS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GARDEN FEST

MAY 1, 2008 – MEETING DATE; AGENDA AND LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED