



Garden Variety News

A publication of the Morgan County Master Gardener Association, Inc

January-February 2009

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GENERAL MEETINGS

- 6 PM Social (committees can meet)
- 6:30 PM Business meeting
- 7 PM Speaker/program

FEBRUARY MEETING NOTICE

February 5, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

The February Program is *Community Gardens & KIB programs*, rescheduled from November. The February meeting will be held at the
Mooresville Public Library
220 W Harrison St. Mooresville, IN
46158
(317) 831-7323

From Martinsville, take Indiana Hwy 67 to Mooresville; turn left on Indiana St (at Gray's Cafeteria); turn left on Harrison St and travel for approximately 2-3 blocks. Library is on the right hand side.

Please make an effort to contact fellow MGs who live near you that might like to share a ride. Anyone who would like to attend this meeting, but is unable to drive can call Trena Trusty at 317-996-2746 to make arrangements for transportation.

WELCOME 2009

Neta Phelps

As we usher in 2009, the MCMG board would like to welcome you to the Master Gardener Association and challenge you to a great year.

You may not even detect that we are changing from the inside out. New challenges, activities, and meeting locations have come to the MCMG. Each year we plan major events, which wouldn't take place without our faithful members. I am challenging all members, including myself, to get involved as a participant and a volunteer. Let's show the community who we are and what we are about.

We can raise our association memberships in 2009. I challenge each of you to contact a past member or classmate to attend at least one meeting.

The board looks forward to serving you in 2009. Please let us know how we can better do this.

The first day of spring is March 20. As the letter carriers deliver the seed catalogs we are dreaming big gardening dreams.

Thank you in advance for your active participation and attendance during 2009.

MASTER GARDENER VEST SILENT AUCTION!

This is your big chance! At the February meeting, you may be the winning bidder of a "vintage, size large Master Gardener vest". This vest was hand made by member Deb Gearing back in the early 1990s and originally sold for \$30. It is constructed of heavyweight unbleached cotton twill and lined with cream-colored cotton. The styling is simple with two front patch pockets that can hold a lot of stuff and our original logo on the chest. This vest was donated back to the club by former member Peg McGuire and has been gently used. We will have a silent auction to help it find a new owner.



LOST AND FOUND

Trena Trusty has the clear acrylic, three compartment container that had nuts in it at our Christmas meeting. She will



Top Roses for Fragrance

Double Delight

A hybrid tea rose with a long season of bloom, was an AARS winner back in 1977. The double blossoms have a rich, creamy white to pale pink center with deep, ruby edging. They have a bushy habit, growing to about 4-5 feet with a 2-3 foot spread.

Double Delight shows good disease resistance, although less so in wet weather, which also does in the blossoms. Expect a sweet, spicy scent.

Zones 5-9



4th of July

In 1999, Fourth of July was the first climbing rose to win the AARS award in 23 years. The blossoms are everything you'd expect from a rose named 4th of July, clusters of large 4 inch flowers in vibrant red with white stripes, on 10-14 foot arching canes.

As with all the roses listed here, the scent is exceptional. 4th of July has the added bonus of being a repeat bloomer.

Zones 5-9

bring it to the February meeting or you can call her to claim it at 317-996-2746.

PORTER COUNTY SHOW

By Trena Trusty

Ten of us headed north for the second time to attend the *Porter County Master Gardener Show*. They have a fairly large organization and put on a great show. We arrived a few minutes before the doors opened and were able to hit the MG seed and bulb table before the speakers started. We had a great program on Hydrangeas by Jean Starr in which she explained terminology and bloom characteristics. In a nutshell, trying to change the color of your hydrangea blooms is a huge undertaking and it's best to enjoy what nature gives to them. Lack of bloom in Endless Summer is the norm for almost everyone and is due to winter bud kill. The blooms are on old wood and must be protected to survive the winter. That is the case with all of the *H. macrophylla* selections that are flooding the market. Better to lean towards the *H. arborescens*, *H. paniculata*, *H. quercifolia*, and *H. serrata* selections. So read the tag!

There was also a great program by Don White of Anything Orchids. He actually showed how to repot an orchid and taught us about the importance of the root medium and watering. Judy Turner brought home a couple of choice plants from the ones he had for sale and Diane Cockerham learned that the ones she recently acquired are in good shape. She bought some new potting mix and did some repotting the next day after the show.

We were fortunate to take virtual visits to Taltree Arboretum, Fernwood Arboretum, Morton Arboretum and Nichols Arboretum thanks to presentations by the curators and directors of those institutions. They are all great places to visit and will be included in our trips in the future. Kunzo Kim from the Morton Arboretum also gave a fantastic presentation on Witch Hazels. Several of us are anxious to try

these beautiful plants in our own landscapes now.

In Liz Maynard's program on vegetable gardening, Terry Bunton was inspired to try growing melons in hanging baskets. She explained that you can plant in a regular hanging basket and let the foliage drape over the side, but you have to provide support for the fruit if it doesn't reach the ground. Apparently a 12-14" basket of soil provided enough space for the roots to develop.

Most of us attended Gene Bush's presentation about shade gardening. His delightful comments about gardening at Munchkin Gardens and the pictures that he showed were so inspiring. If you want to see his place in person watch for info about our bus trip later this summer to the Louisville area. Trena checked with his wife Joy, and they can accommodate a motor coach so long as the driver is willing.

There were loads of vendors at this show as well as an excellent photo competition, kids activities, dogs and cats for adoption and door prizes. Our group included Neta Phelps, Mary Ellen Holmes, Terry Bunton, Rae Craig, Judy Turner, Diane Cockerham, Trena Trusty, Cindy Vogel, and Hendricks County MGs Karen Halas and Cecelia Blazier.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

With Trena Trusty

Garden Programs at the Mooresville Public Library

The following schedule of programs has been set for the Mooresville Public Library. MGs are welcome to attend for advanced training hours, or why not volunteer to help with the classes, too.

If you are interested in helping with or even leading one of the programs, please contact Trena Trusty at 317-996-2746 or trustygarden@ccrtc.com All programs

HATS OFF!



To **Nancy Manly** for raising \$250.00 for the Morgan County Hospital neonatal unit through the fundraiser auction at the hospital this Christmas!

To **Trena Trusty** For putting on such a great 2009 library program, as well as raising money for the Association through the wreath program in 2008!

Be sure to thank both women when you see them at our next meeting.

Memberships

Thirty-seven members have paid dues for 2009 as of today. Please support the Master Gardener Association by renewing your membership. Contact Tom Flatt or attend the February meeting and bring \$10.00 to renew your membership

begin at 6:30 p.m. except the Perennial Exchange at 6 p.m.

February – 10th – Budgeting for Landscaping Expenses

With the expense of running a household getting higher, planning for landscape expenses can help cut the amount of money you spend. In this hands-on session, participants will learn to identify the costs of maintaining a landscape and how to prepare a budget for annual expenses.

March – 10th – Bulbs for the Garden

Daffodils, cannas, tulips, gladiolus, fritillaria, alliums, hyacinths, and so many more. In this make and take class we will explore the various types of tender and hardy bulbs that we can use in our gardens. We will talk about how to plant and care for them and plant some to take home and enjoy while we wait for spring to come. Fee for materials.

April – 7th – Vegetable Gardening

Are you thinking about growing your own vegetables for use at home or to sell at the local Farmers' Market? In this class you will get an introduction to basic vegetable gardening for the homeowner and learn how to properly transplant seedlings. Each participant will take home a starter set of vegetable seedlings suitable for the home garden. Fee for materials.

May – 12th - Ten Perennials You Should Know

Join us for a presentation on ten perennial plants that you may not be using in your garden. At least three or four will be plants that fit your garden conditions and make great additions to the landscape.

June 4 – 6-7 p.m. – Perennial Plant Exchange with the Morgan County Master Gardeners

Have some plants that you can share with others? Join us for a Perennial Plant Exchange and learn about different plants from your friends' gardens. Participants are asked to bring at least 4 plants in separate pots to trade. Any kind of perennial plant is welcome including herbs, flowers, foliage plants, tree seedlings, shrubs, and fruit shrubs. Heck, we'll even trade you for a bushel of goat manure! Everyone goes home with something new, unless we all bring the same hosta.

September – 15th – Composting

You may have heard about composting, but you just aren't sure you want to try it. How do you make compost and what do you do with it? We will cover everything you ever wanted to know about composting in this session, and send you home with the information you need to get the pile started.

October – 6th – Gardening for All Seasons

Some landscapes look great in the summer, but are less than inspiring during other times of the year. In this session, we will take a look at plants that help energize the landscape during fall, winter and early spring, and talk about how to incorporate them into your landscape.

November – 17th – Holiday Greenery

'Tis the season to think about holiday decorating! In this make and take class we will talk about different types of holiday greenery and where to find it. We will also learn how to make a swag for your front door or mailbox. Fee for materials.

FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS

2 – Groundhog Day
2 – Candlemas Day
6 – Lame Duck Day
8 – Boy Scouts day
12 – Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
14 – Valentine's Day
16 – President's Day
20 – Cherry Pie Day

22 – George Washington's Birthday

23 – International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day (every dog has his day) origin unknown

29 – Leap Day

Home Made Dog Treats

2 c. whole-wheat flour
1 tbsp. baking powder
1 c. peanut butter (chunky or smooth)
1 c. milk

Preheat oven to 375°F. In a bowl, combine flour and baking powder. In another bowl, mix peanut butter and milk, then add to dry ingredients and mix well. Place dough on a lightly floured surface and knead. Roll dough to 1/4 inch thickness and use a cookie cutter to cut out shapes. Bake for 20 minutes on a greased baking sheet until lightly brown. Cool on a rack, then store in an airtight container.

Find more dog recipes here:
<http://www.bullwrinkle.com/Assets/Recipes/Recipes.htm>

MOORESVILLE PLANTERS

Volunteers are needed to help plant spring bulbs in the planters in downtown Mooresville on Saturday, March 7 or 14 at 9 a.m. depending on the weather. If you are available to help, contact Trena Trusty, 317-996-2746.

We will also be planting and caring for a planter again this summer beginning in late May. Mary Ann Underwood was our go to person on this project last summer and reports that it takes lots of watering to keep the planter healthy. If you are interested in helping design, plant and care for that planter, you can contact Trena Trusty.



DAFFODIL DAYS AT LINK OBSERVATORY

This is a project we started last spring, and it met with good results. During the month of April, the gates at Link Observatory on Observatory Road near Brooklyn are opened daily for the public to visit Helen Link's daffodil beds. Most people come on Saturdays and Sundays. Trena is scheduling people to work in pairs for three-hour shifts on the weekends. During your shift, you will help monitor activity, talk to visitors about daffodils and the history of Mrs. Link's breeding program, and mark clumps of daffodils that will be ready for dividing in June. Members of the Indiana Daffodil Society will also be filling some of the slots. A sign up chart will be available at the Spring Garden Fest or you can contact Trena to go ahead and schedule a shift. Shifts are 9 am – noon, noon – 3 pm, and 3-6 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Trena will also be coordinating volunteers to help members of IDS dig and divide daffodils during the second week in June.

INDIANA STATE MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE

Information, including registration information, conference agendas, and accommodations is posted on the website for the Michiana Master

Gardener's Association: www.michianamastergardeners.com GARDENER ADVANCED TRAINING SEMINAR

Pre-registration is due **no later** than February 14, 2009. On site registration fees increase to \$40.00 per registrant and \$70.00 per registrant and spouse after February 14, 2009. Attendance will count as 6 hours of continuing education for Master Gardeners. Make checks payable to Putnam County Master Gardeners Association. If you need further information contact Linda Blocher at (765) 522-3451 or (317) 525-2676 or email lblocher@tds.net.

Mail registration form and payment to:

Linda Blocher
3161 E. Co. Rd. 800 N.
Bainbridge, IN. 46105

MORGAN COUNTY FAIR

The plant sale was quite successful last year and will be held again this year. Plan now to donate garden plants for the fair. This year's fair will be early, and will last longer. By next month the dates of the fair should be available. If you are interested in volunteering to be the County Fair Booth Chairman, please contact Tom Flatt.

MADISON COUNTY TRAINING

Madison County is again hosting an advanced MG training on Saturday, February 21, 2009 at the Madison County Fairgrounds in Alexandria, IN. continental breakfast and lunch will be included with your \$35 registration fee along with plenty of door prizes, freebies, and plenty of good garden stuff to purchase.

Contact John Orick, Extension Educator, Agriculture/Natural Resources, by phone at 765-641-9514 or by e-mail at orick@purdue.edu to register.