



# Garden Variety News

A publication of the Morgan County Master Gardener Association, Inc

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## MEETING NOTICE

- May 7, 2009 Ready the gardens at the 4-H building prior to the meeting. What and how to exhibit & show at the county & state fairs by Trena
- June 4, 2009- Perennial plant exchange at Mooresville Library

This is a good opportunity for the new interns to earn a few hours while having fun and getting to know a few of the older members.

## BURKHART PARK WOODS WALK

*WITH DAVID MOW*

David Mow, Morgan County Master Gardener and Wildflower Expert, will be tour guide for three Woods Walks at Burkhart Park: April 18, May 2 and May 16. If you wish to participate in the hike, meet at the Burkhart Park parking area at 12 noon on those Saturdays.

- What to Bring? Wear good walking shoes and comfortable clothing; and bring a bottle of water and a camera if desired. This woods walk might be considered rigorous to many, so be prepared for a hike. David assures me that he walks slowly.
  - Education Hours? You will be given credit for education & training. For additional credit, someone could volunteer to write an article for the newsletter. A photo for the newsletter would also be a welcome addition to the newsletter and website.
  - Where is Burkhart Park? Take Indiana HWY 67 south toward Paragon. When you see the Forest Commodities sign, turn the opposite direction – which is RIGHT – on to Duckworth Road. Follow Duckworth Road until you see the sign for Burkhart Park.
- Stack Pots inside each other; for visual interest, turn a pot upside down and use as a pedestal for another pot in the garden
  - Store all Gardening books on the same bookshelf near the other supplies
  - Multi-pocketed aprons and shoe holders will hold small tools, supplies and seeds
  - Reusable grocery bags are great for carrying hand tools and for holding extra gloves and supplies. They can hang from hooks or sit on a shelf. They are washable at the end of the season
  - An old outhouse can be used for a potting and tool shed, and is quite charming with an oil lamp hanging inside for light. Have a window cut out and hinged for opening when you work.
  - Old CD storage units and entertainment centers have lots of cubby holes for storage
  - An old dresser makes a good potting table and the drawers will hold supplies. Cover with plastic when potting, to keep the dirt and moisture out of the drawers.

## ORGANIZING GARDEN SUPPLIES

## GARDEN Q&A

### How do you grow pole beans on corn stalks?

Growing pole beans on corn stalks is a matter of timing. After all danger of frost has passed in your area, create a mound of soil 10 inches high and 3 feet in diameter. Choose a tall corn variety, such as 'Country Gentlemen'. Flatten the top of the mound and plant 7 sweet corn seeds in the center, spacing the seeds about 4 inches apart. After 2 weeks or when the corn plants are at least 10 inches tall, sow 6 pole bean seeds in a circle 6 inches away from the corn plants. Keep the mound weeded and watered. When the pole beans are a few inches tall, train them to climb by gently wrapping the shoots around the corn stalks. Once started the beans will continue to climb on their own.

Source for Q&A:  
[www.garden.org](http://www.garden.org)

- Fertilizers and home made potting soil store well in plastic pails with lids, and can be labeled with a permanent marker and stacked for next year. They are easier to move than big garbage cans full of stuff. You can get the 'free' food-grade plastic pails from some fast food restaurants. Ask around.
- Spray paint small tool handles in a fluorescent color so you can spot them easily if you leave them out in the garden; it is also a good way to separate your tools from your spouse's
- Garden stakes can be reused if they have not rotted. Remove from the soil and spray down well. Stand out in the sun to dry well, then store in plastic buckets to use next year.
- An old plastic tool chest with drawers for screws can be used for string, planting and marker supplies.
- Make a potting table out of old wooden deck boards that are being replaced, or out of barn wood.

## IDEAS FOR A POTTING SHED



To build the above potting shed, go to this link for a free plan:  
<http://progressivefarmer.com/farmer/diy/freeplans/images/pottingbench.pdf>

Create a potting shed in back of your garage with old boards, shelving brackets, a trellis (either new or used), a bench for potting, storage containers for dirt, peat, perlite, barks, sand, etc, hooks for hanging equipment, tools, baskets. Install shelves, trellis and the potting bench so you have a u-shaped work area. Put a birdfeeder close by, listen to music and enjoy your newly created outdoor space. Put an old wooden chair or two, painted in garden colors. Depending upon which direction the shed faces, you should be able to store most of the gardening tools here all winter. Small tools can go into a bucket with sand and oil; large tools can hang from the garage from hooks out of the weather. The plastic buckets should be water tight, or old wash pans hanging over them upside down will also keep rain and snow out.

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## Chocolate Zucchini Bread

From Terry Bunton

2½ cups all-purpose flour  
½ cup unsweetened cocoa  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
¼ teaspoon baking powder  
2 cups sugar  
3 eggs  
1/3 cup canola oil  
2 tablespoons water  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
2 ½ cups shredded zucchini

Coat two 4 x 8 or 5 x 9 inch loaf pans with nonstick spray. In a medium bowl, use electric mixer set at medium speed to beat sugar, egg, oil, water and vanilla until well blended. Stir in zucchini. Add dry ingredients and stir until moistened. Divide batter between pans. Bake 50 – 60 minutes at 350 degrees (bake until toothpick inserted near center comes out clean).

**WHITE RIVER  
GARDENS  
VOLUNTEER  
OPPORTUNITIES**

For anyone who might be interested in volunteering at White River Gardens at the Indianapolis Zoo, now is a good time to sign up. Volunteer positions are available as a Gardener and in the Dick Crum Resource Center, located in White River Gardens. The Resource Center requires that you be comfortable talking to the public and answering questions.

In order to volunteer, you must submit an online volunteer application and attend a Volunteer Program Introduction (which will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 from 6:30-8:00 pm at White River Gardens. You can get more information, or complete the volunteer application at the zoo website:

<http://www.indyzoo.com>

Click on  
Careers/Volunteer.

**What Happens In Vegas...**

**By Judy Turner**

Report from the International Master Gardener Conference  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
March 22-26, 2009

Morgan County MGA members Kathy Hull and Judy Turner were among the almost 800 Master Gardeners and Extension Educators who attended the 2009 International Master Gardener Conference in Las Vegas last month. The conference, titled "New Frontiers," emphasized green methods and conservation, a fitting theme for a desert location that averages 4 inches of rain per year. Even the conference tote bags were repurposed from other uses. A variety of pre- and post-conference tours included visits to sites in the area, including Death Valley and the Grand Canyon, as well as other locations and gardens nearer to Las Vegas.

Conference sessions included speakers on soil microbes, hydroponics, rainwater harvesting, water efficient design, earth friendly pest management, growing succulents, the First Detector program, and the slow food movement in Las Vegas, as well as a number of other topics.

Attendees had the opportunity to go on numerous tours during the conference, including gardens of Master Gardeners in the area, and the Ethel M cactus Garden (located at a chocolate factory). Some of the most popular tours were early morning (buses left at 5:30 am!) behind the scenes tours of the horticulture and landscaping at the Bellagio, Mirage, Wynn, and Encore Hotels. This was a very interesting opportunity to see how the interior floral displays and gardens are created and maintained, as well as learn about the challenges of maintaining landscaping in the hot (up to 120 degrees in the summer), dry climate of Las Vegas. Even here, recycling and water conservation are becoming more important and more common.

Several of the speakers presented information relevant to the importance of the Master Gardener program. Bill Hoffman, from the Cooperative State Research Education Extension Service at the USDA, which oversees the entire Master Gardener Program, gave results of a survey he had done of the MG program in the US. He found that there were 95,000 Master Gardeners in good standing, of which 20% were new this year. He also determined that those Master Gardeners contributed 75 million volunteer hours last year, which he estimated to represent a value of \$65 million! He also tallied 4.8 million personal contacts, and 100 million media contacts. This represents a tremendous impact from the program.

The final speaker of the conference was Marvin Miller, who is the Market Research Manager at Ball Horticulture Company. He was speaking about the America in Bloom program, but included information that the horticulture industry had obtained in pre-season surveys in 2009. The results estimated a 19% increase in households doing food gardening. Of these anticipated food gardeners, 21% are new to gardening. This represents a big opportunity for programs such as Master Gardening to continue to educate and help the public.

The next International Master Gardener Conference will be in Charleston, West Virginia on October 11-14, 2011.

*June 18-19, 2010  
2010 Purdue  
Master Gardener  
State Conference  
Purdue - West  
Lafayette Campus*

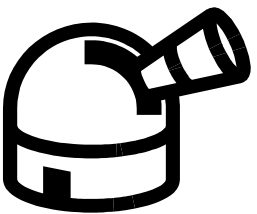
# Gardening With Trena Trusty

## Thank you Link Volunteers!

A huge thank you to Master Gardeners who took the time to volunteer as greeters at the Link Daffodils this April.

We had quite a few visitors through the month and the daffodils were gorgeous! Volunteers this year included: Diane Cockerham, Rae Craig, Sherry Whetstine, Don Adams, Renee Baker, Mary Ann

Underwood, Todd Robling, Neta Phelps, Corky Mayo, Deb Gearing, Connie Fetsch, Mary Ellen Holmes, Betty Kenworthy, Christina Cherry, Diana Wren, Floyd Page, Carol Cochran, Ruth Pelouch, David Mow and Al and Mary Hornaday. It is safe to estimate that over 600 people came to visit during the month.



## Exhibiting Horticulture At the County and State Fair

Have you ever considered entering your beautiful plants, flowers or produce in competition? Did you know that you could actually win cash prizes in some competitions? And even more amazing is the fact that there are several cash awards available at the Indiana State Fair that never have entries.

Come to the next Morgan County Master Gardener meeting on Thursday, May 7 and learn more about available competitions, the benefits of entering, and how to prepare an exhibit worthy of winning. Master Gardener and Indiana State Fair employee Trena Trusty will lead this program that could result in your financial gain and bragging rights in the gardening community.

## Volunteer for the Lawn and Garden Answer Line

With so many people starting to garden and take care of their own lawns and landscapes, lots of questions come up. When do I fertilize? How do I control grubs in the lawn? What can I do about weeds in my flowerbeds?

Starting May 14 we will be featuring the Lawn and Garden Answer Line at the Morgan County Extension Office. Master Gardeners will be at the office to answer phone calls or follow up on questions from the week on Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m. The questions that come in to the Extension Office on a weekly basis are generally simple enough for any of our Master Gardeners to handle. And Chris can be consulted if you aren't sure you have the right advice.

There will be a short training session for this volunteer project at the May 7 meeting. Master Gardeners who are interested in working on Thursdays anytime from noon to 4 p.m. should contact project coordinator Trena Trusty, at 317-996-2746 for more information. This does count for volunteer hours.

She is also looking for volunteers to write up regular news releases to publicize the service, so if you can't come in and answer questions, you can work from home to earn hours as well.

## Digging Daffodils at Link

Indiana Daffodil Society President Sara Kinne has marked several clumps of daffodils to divide at the Link property. Digging and dividing won't be until later in May and June. Those of us who did it last year had a great time and ended up with some thank you bulbs from IDS for our own gardens.

If you are interested in volunteering to help this year, please contact Trena Trusty at 317-996-2746 to get your name on the list. We generally do this on Wednesdays and Saturdays starting at 8 or 9 in the morning and work until we are done. We do have access to a bathroom, but you will want to bring water and a lunch. You will receive training that counts for 1 hour of advanced education and the balance of your time is counted as volunteer time.

## Perennial Plant Exchanges

We have two Perennial Plant Exchanges coming up in Morgan County. The first will be at the Morgan County Public Library on Tuesday, May 19 at 6 p.m. Participants are asked to bring 4 separate plants to trade. They can be all the same or different. You should have an idea of what the plant is. It can be a perennial, annual, tree, shrub or vegetable plant as well. We will meet in the basement conference room for this exchange that is open to the public. Now is a good time to start dividing and potting up plants to exchange so they have time to settle into the container.

The second exchange will also be open to the public and is in conjunction with our June meeting at the Mooresville Public Library on June 4 at 6 pm. We will meet in the Community Room for the exchange prior to the meeting.



## INPAWS Native Plant Sale and Auction

Saturday,  
May 9th,  
Trinity/St.  
Richard's,  
3243 N.  
Meridian St.,  
Indianapolis,  
St. Richard's  
School Gym

**Plant and Book  
Sale 10:00 am  
to 12:30 pm**

**Auction begins  
at 11:15 am**

Visit the  
website for  
more  
information and  
to download  
the flyer.



**Tulip Tree  
photo is from  
[www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org)**

Participants are again asked to bring 3 or 4 plants to exchange. If you have any questions about either of these activities contact Trena Trusty at 317-996-2746.

### Other Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Trena Trusty at 317-996-2746 or [trustygarden@ccrtc.com](mailto:trustygarden@ccrtc.com) for any of the following activities unless otherwise indicated.

Would you like to help with the Plant Exchanges? Volunteers are needed for both events to help with set up, registration, emceeing, distribution and clean up. Contact Trena Trusty if you would be available to help on either May 19 or June 4.

**Monrovia Library** - Master Gardener Venessa Bowers will be developing a plan for putting in a rain garden in a swale area at the Monrovia Library. She will be looking for volunteers to help with installation and initial maintenance of the planting. You can contact her at [venessa7@hotmail.com](mailto:venessa7@hotmail.com) to get more info on the project.

Also at the Monrovia Library we would like to set up a series of lawn and garden classes for 2009 - 2010. These would be simple programs open to the public. One of the first will be a class on making hypertufa containers with children. The new Children's Garden features a handmade hypertufa birdbath that can be viewed from the window in the children's section. The Orchard Store has already donated the heater to keep it thawed in the winter, but we want to work with a group of children to make the trough.

Other programs can cover a wide range of topics including ones that you may be interested in developing a program for. If you have a topic that you would like to share with the public, please contact Trena to get included in the schedule of classes.

**Bradford Woods** - Did you know that there are volunteer opportunities for

Master Gardeners at Bradford Woods? The gardens at the Manor House have been an ongoing project for MG Intern Kim Evans and she would be thrilled to have a few other volunteers to work with her. If you are interested in helping her out, contact her at [kdevans@indiana.edu](mailto:kdevans@indiana.edu) or call 765-349-1783.

### Vegetable Garden at the Morgan County Jail

MG Intern Don Adams has a dream. He would like to see a vegetable garden at the jail for inmates to learn about gardening and enjoy the benefits of the produce they grow. He has someone lined up to break ground, but volunteers will be needed to work with inmates on basic gardening techniques. This is an activity that can be on a regular schedule through the summer and into fall. Please contact Don at 317-831-3927 or email [bethelpnd@gmail.com](mailto:bethelpnd@gmail.com) if you would like to help with this project.

### Sick Plants in a Hungry World A New Non-Credit Course

This non-credit course is completely online and has 10 modules with topics ranging from basic concepts in plant disease to prehistoric man and plant diseases, and from the Irish Potato Famine to bioterrorism. **The course is completely self-paced, so you can take it anytime anywhere.** The course is specifically designed for Master Gardener volunteers, however, anyone interested in plants, history, and contemporary global issues will find it exciting and intriguing.

The course will be online for 10 weeks once you begin the program. Assignments consist of supplied module readings and self-tests. You will receive a certificate from the Ohio State University Office of Continuing Educational upon completion.

To learn more about the class, go to: [http://plantpath.osu.edu/extension/outreach/online/index\\_html](http://plantpath.osu.edu/extension/outreach/online/index_html)

To register for the class, visit: <http://osucedreg.com/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x15405241>

