



# Garden Variety News

A publication of the Morgan County Master Gardener Association, Inc

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[www.mcmastergardeners.org](http://www.mcmastergardeners.org)

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## MEETING NOTICE October and November Morgan County MGA Meetings

**October:** The meeting will be on Thursday, Oct 1 at the Monrovia Public Library. The speaker will be Dee Terrell, Morgan County Library Board member, who will talk to the group about the features of the new library that make it a "green" building. We will also tour the gardens, and learn about the challenges of putting in a new landscape. Several of our master gardeners worked on the garden. In addition, we will learn about the plans for the children's garden. Hospitality time will begin at 6:00 pm, with the program beginning at 6:30 and the business meeting following.

To get to the Monrovia Library from Martinsville—go north on SR67 to SR39 north. Follow 39 to 145 S. Chestnut St (SR39), on the right.

From Mooresville—go west on SR42, turn right on Keller Hill Road (follow the detour signs), turn left on Gasburg Rd, then turn right on SR42 again into Monrovia. Turn left on SR39, to 145 S Chestnut St (SR39) on the left.

**November:** The meeting will be on Thursday, Nov 5 at the Morgan County Fairgrounds in the Wilbur Kendall room. The speaker will be Bill Ward, Marion County Master Gardener and member of the Indianapolis Hosta Society, who will talk about Hostas. He will discuss care of hostas and discuss the different varieties. Hospitality time will be at 6:00, with the speaker program at 6:30 and the business meeting following.

## ASSOCIATION PLANS FOR 2010

Ruth Pelouch

Hi Master Gardeners!

Thank you for accepting the slate of officers presented at the September meeting. Your 2010 Board has experienced members. Vice president, Judy Turner and Treasurer, Tom Flatt, will continue on with their 2009 duties. Ruth Pelouch moves from a two year secretarial position to President and Michelle Bales joins as Secretary.

We have already met and have started planning events for the next gardening year. We hope to make this a year full of gardening information and ideas plus opportunities for member involvement in Master Gardening. In addition to the new, there will be the old favorites: The Garden Fest in March, the summer bus tour and the Fair Booth in July/August. An exciting new venture for the Master Gardeners is the construction of a permanent structure at the Fair Grounds for the Master Gardener's Fair Booth. Our booth suffered severe damage during the 2009 wind storm. A permanent structure would have faired so much better. The venture is in the early planning stage. We will keep you posted on our progress.

I invite all of you to participate with us in making 2010 an exciting year of gardening. If you have ideas you would like to share, be it topics for meetings, tours you would enjoy or questions you would like answered in the newsletter, please contact me. Your input is what makes the Master Gardener program.

*Ruth Pelouch, President*  
Morgan County Master Gardeners



## 2009 ALL AMERICAN

**Viola F1 'Rain Blue and Purple'**  
**AAS® Cool Season Bedding Plant Award Winner**

This variety creates a spreading pool of cool blue colors. The plants are cold and heat tolerant resulting in flowers throughout the seasons. Viola 'Rain Blue and Purple' will bloom in the south during fall and winter; in the north in the spring and summer. There is always a season of bloom for 'Rain Blue and Purple.' Another appealing trait is that the one and a half inch blooms change color from purple and white to purple and blue as they mature. Few flowers change colors naturally and 'Rain Blue and Purple' is one of them. The plants spread 10 to 14 inches in the garden or container.

**Genus species:** *Viola cornuta*

**Common names:** Johnny Jump-Up

**Unique qualities:** Creeping habit, flower color changes naturally from purple/white to purple/blue

**Flower size:** 1 1/2 inches  
**Color(s):** Purple/white to purple/blue

**Plant height:** 6 inches  
**Plant width:** Spreads 10 to 14 inches

**Garden spacing:** 10 to 12 inches

**Length of time from sowing seed to flower:** 70 days

**Closest comparison(s) on market:** 'Alpine F1 Violet & White,' 'Viola F1 'Rebel Blue'

## PROGRAM TOPIC IDEAS

By Judy Turner

It's time to start planning the Master Gardener Association meeting programs for 2010. As the vice president, it's my job to schedule the programs. While I have ideas of my own, and I get input from the Executive Board, I really want to know what the members would like to learn about! If you have a program topic that you are especially interested in, or if you know of a speaker that you think would be interesting to the group, please let me know. If there is somewhere that you think the group would enjoy visiting, we can set up an off-site meeting. The purpose of the programs is to learn, but also to have fun. Feel free to send program ideas to me (email at [hokiehog72@yahoo.com](mailto:hokiehog72@yahoo.com)). I will have a sheet at the October and November meetings for you to put down your suggestions.

In addition, if you would like to prepare a program and present it to the group, please let me know. This is an excellent way to increase your knowledge about a topic (unless you are already an expert, in which case we REALLY want you to talk!). It is also a great way to get volunteer hours, because you get hours for your preparation time as well as your presentation time.

Remember—if you don't give me your ideas, then you'll get what I think is interesting.



## Chimney Swift Roost

From Marilyn Bickley

Editor's note: The Garden Club held a tour of the Grassyfork gardens on Wednesday evening, September 23. The tour was to be followed by a viewing of the Chimney Swift Roost. Marilyn forwarded the following information to us:

There is an event of interest occurring nightly at the Grassyfork building in Martinsville. We have overnight guests! Hundreds of chimney swifts are roosting, preparing for their migration to their wintering spot in Peru.

Arrive at 8:00 p.m. and you will see a handful of birds in the sky above the building. Stand on the south lawn near the giant walnut tree trunk, so the light on the back of the building doesn't blind you when it turns on about 8:15. By about 8:20 there are hundreds of chimney swifts circling overhead. Then they begin dropping into the chimney. Which one decides when it is time to go to bed? About 8:25, one last bird makes the final circle, checking to be sure there is no stray that has stayed out past curfew. Then this last bird drops into the chimney, and just like that, the sky is empty.

Last weekend, several of us participated in the national chimney swift count. We averaged 300 birds between Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night. We have submitted our roost and our count to the national organization.

**Note from Kathy Hull this week:** We were at the Grassyfork building to watch the chimney swifts last night and the action time was earlier.

7:55 birds began to gather  
 8:05 began their swirling flight (like a tornado of birds) above the chimney.  
 8:12 all birds inside chimney

Do not miss this wonderful show. Get there if you can.

## TRENA TRUSTY WORKSHOPS

### Gardening for all Seasons

Our next class at the Mooresville Public Library will be Tuesday October 6 at 6 pm. The subject will be choosing plants for the landscape that provide multiple seasons of interest. MHD are welcome to attend for additional training hours or to volunteer to help. Contact Trena Trusty for further info at 317-996-2746.

### Evergreen Workshops

It may be hard to imagine, but it is almost time for the holiday workshops. Trena would love to have an expanded committee this year to help with the planning and collecting of the greens. We will meet on Monday, October 19 at 6 pm at a place to be determined. Contact Trena if you interested in serving on the committee even if you can't help at the workshops.

### Pot Party!

Earn loads of volunteer hours by cleaning out and sorting pots for recycling. Trena would love to have some help with the pots accumulating at her house. The pots will then be taken to *Brehob's Nursery* for recycling. We will work from 9 am to 3 pm on Wednesday, October 7 with a break for lunch at noon. Lunch and beverages will be provided.

### Update from 2009 State Master Gardener Conference

By Judy Turner

Over 200 Purdue Extension Master Gardeners from around the state met in Elkhart on September 17, 18, and 19 for the 2009 State Conference. Morgan County MGA was represented by Tom Flatt, Kathy Hull, Meredith Hull, and Judy Turner. In addition, Tom's wife Sherry and Judy's husband Charlie Hutchens came along to enjoy the weekend. A pre-conference tour on Thursday took the attendees to Elkhart's new Wellfields Botanic Garden—a garden being built on public ground that is above the city's water wells. Only two sections of the gardens have been completed, but the finished gardens are beautiful, and the plans for additional areas look interesting. As usual, there was quite a varied list of speakers and topics, along with vendor booths and a silent auction. An optional tour was available after the completion of the conference to several of the Quilt Gardens in the Elkhart area, finishing up with a thresher's dinner at an Amish family's home.

Rosie Lerner, the state Master Gardener coordinator, updated the group on the status of the statewide database for reporting volunteer and education hours. It is in use in Lake County, and about to be expanded to Hamilton, Allen, and Monroe Counties. Eventually there will be training for County Educators and their staff, and then MG's. So it's getting closer!

Mark your calendars now for the 2010 State Conference in West Lafayette. The dates are June 17-19. A new set of awards will be given at the State Conference. Currently, Search for Excellence awards are given at the International Master Gardener Conferences (such as the 2009 IMGC in Las Vegas). These are for outstanding MG group projects, in a number of different categories. Beginning in 2010, Search for Excellence awards will be given at the State Conference in the following categories:

Youth program; Demonstration Garden

Educational Service (Workshop, Presentation or Publication)

Special Need Audience (Senior, Disabled, or Horticultural Therapy)

More details will be coming about this.

There will be a Study Abroad program in 2010—The Gardens of Britain, from July 1-14. This is a wonderful opportunity to travel and learn, and you get continuing education hours!

### **Morgan County Hospital Tree Project**

The Morgan County Hospital Guild is sponsoring a Festival of Trees again this year to be held at the Art Sanctuary in Martinsville. Individuals and organizations are invited to decorate and donate Christmas trees and wreaths, which are then open for the public to enjoy and bid on during the week of November 28 through December 5.

The MCMGA is preparing a tree again this year and we would like help from all of our members. The theme for our tree is "Gardening". We are asking members to bring an ornament based on that theme to the November meeting. Ornaments can be handmade or purchased, and you are welcome to bring more than one. We will also be in need of a team of 3-4 volunteers to set up and decorate the tree at the Art Sanctuary. AND if you happen to have a two or four foot artificial tree in new or gently used condition that you can donate to this project, we could certainly use it. We're hoping that perhaps we can assemble enough decorations to decorate two trees for this project.

Your work on this project does count as volunteer time, so please keep track and add it to your form. You are also welcome to sign up as an individual to decorate and donate a tree or wreath. Their goal is to have 80 items available for bidding, so please consider this project for other groups that you belong to as well. Decorating a Christmas tree for charity is a great way to feed your inner self, especially when done with friends or family. **Contact Trena Trusty** for more information about the Festival of Trees project.

