



Garden Variety News

A publication of the Morgan County Master Gardener Association, Inc

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MEETING NOTICE

April 2, 2009 – Held at **Goethe Link Observatory, 8403 Observatory Road, Martinsville, IN 46151**. Tom Borlik will lead a tour and cover the history of the link daffodil gardens.

To reach Link Observatory from Mooresville, go south on HWY 67 for about 4.7 miles. Turn Right on Observatory Road and drive about 1.3 miles.

From Martinsville, go north on HWY 67 and turn left on Observatory Road.

Next Meetings:

- 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

GardenFest a Huge Success

By Marilyn Bickley

This year Spring rushed into Martinsville on the petals of pansies as the Morgan County Master Gardeners sold a record number of pansies at their annual GardenFest and Pansy Sale March 20th and 21st. Over 1500 people, some from as far as Bloomfield in one direction and Indianapolis in another, attended the event. Pansies almost sold out Friday evening. Fifty extra flats had to be brought in Saturday morning. A total of 4200 pansy plants were sold and are out there beautifying our community. In addition, 400 trees were given away for planting throughout the county.

Vendors as always helped to draw the crowds. Orchids, perennials, herbs, decorative copper and metal pieces, fountains, and mulch are just a few of the items sold. Advice on irrigation systems and tree trimming and removal was also available. A total of 35 vendors participated each with unique items for the gardener.

Standing room only crowds were the norm for the speakers. Thomas O'Brien of *Primary Grounds* in Greenwood discussed the installation of retaining walls. Do your research first, especially if you are attempting the work yourself. If selecting a commercial provider research the quality of their work before you hire them.



Gardenfest 2009

Colletta Kosiba spoke about using Native Plants in the Home Garden. She recommended the 7th Annual Native Plant Sale May 2nd from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm and May 3rd from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the *Avon Outdoor Learning Center* as an excellent source for native plants.

APRIL HOLIDAYS

- 1 [April Fool's Day](#)
- 3 [National Walk to Work Day](#) 1st Friday
- 5 [Palm Sunday](#)
- 10 [Good Friday](#)
- 12 [Easter Sunday](#)
- 15 Income taxes due
- 19 [Passover](#) begins at sundown, lasts 8 days.
- 20 [Patriot's Day](#) Third Monday
- 22 [Earth Day \(U.S.\)](#)
- 22 [Administrative Professionals Day](#) formerly "Secretaries Day"
- 23 [Take Your Daughter to Work Day](#) 4th Thursday
- 24 [Arbor Day](#) always the last Friday in April

GARDENFEST (Continued)

The proceeds benefit the Avon Outdoor Learning Center.

Constance Ferry discussed both Organic Gardening and Companion Planting with Herbs. Herbs can be planted for their medicinal value, to repel bugs among your plants and as a food source. Combine the planting of herbs with organic gardening practices and gardening no longer needs to be labor intensive.

Venessa Bowers talked on the language of flowers. This art is known as floriography. Red roses denote love, yellow indicates friendship and white implies purity. These were just a few of the colors and types of flowers discussed. With a record crowd, a record number of pansies being sold, excellent speakers and a wide variety of vendors, GardenFest has become an event of which the Morgan County Master Gardeners and the community can be proud.

MARCH MEETING NOTES

Ann Lankford asked for assistance with cleaning up the Fairgrounds flower beds. The spring weeds are coming up and all of last year's flowers need to be cut back.

Trena provided information on the trip to Louisville. See last month's newsletter for details. Reservations need to be made by April 1. After that date, she will offer the trip to other county associations.

Trena also recapped information on volunteer opportunities at Mooresville, the Monrovia Library,

and Link Observatory. Contact Trena if you can help out.

Marilyn Bickley discussed the GardenFest work plan and volunteer list.

Tom Flatt discussed the SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) for the Morgan County Master Gardeners that his volunteer group is working on. 1. There are no procedures in place; 2. Retention is a problem and we need to match volunteers who can work with new interns; 3. We are not doing a good job of keeping track of volunteer hours.

David Mow will conduct a Wildflower Walk in mid-April and should have information at the upcoming meeting on April 2. David also talked about the Indiana Department of Transportation program to promote and incorporate native plants and wildflowers into Indiana's roadside landscape. The benefits to Indiana are many, beautifying the landscape; reducing erosion; minimizing mowing expenses; lessening storm runoff; controlling evasive plant species; and improving soil quality.

Cindy Vogel gave a presentation on purchasing seeds, plants and nursery stock, with special attention given to buying locally from nurseries and greenhouses in the Morgan County and surrounding area businesses. She said that if we do not support local businesses, they will go away. She also discussed a number of unusual nurseries and seed companies from out of state. Of particular interest was information she provided on the dates that new stock and seeds would be stocked at local stores.

WHAT COUNTS AS VOLUNTEER AND EDUCATION HOURS?

There were questions during the meeting in March regarding Volunteer Hours and what can be counted. Nancy Manly gave a presentation on *Volunteer and Education Hours* last year, and here is a recap of what counts:

Example Education Hours:

1. Give a Presentation to the Optimists Club about preparing the garden for winter
2. Teaching a session for your local Master Gardener intern class
3. Attending a non-Purdue sponsored gardening symposium

Example Volunteer Hours:

1. Answering gardening questions at the Master Gardener booth at your county fair
2. Digging holes, staking trees, and spreading mulch for a local community beautification project
3. Travel time to State Fair to work shift at Purdue Master Gardener Booth
4. Act as a tour guide at local nature center or other non-Purdue public garden
5. Researching and preparing slides/PowerPoint presentation to local garden club
6. Assisting MG Coordinator or other Master Gardener with gardening class or event (such as a wreath-making class)
7. Time spent serving as MG association officer or committee chair

Examples of No Credit Given:

1. Answering customer questions while on the job at a garden center as a paid employee
2. Making pest control recommendations for a commercial greenhouse grower
3. Pulling weeds in one's own private garden to prepare for a Master Gardener garden tour or other educational event
4. Accepting fee for judging 4-H garden projects at county fair
5. MG Intern class enrollee turns in 30 volunteer hours during the training series
6. Delivered produce from Master Gardener demo garden to local food pantry

GARDEN SHOW CALENDAR

April 4 -- Boone County Gardenfest, Boone County Fairgrounds, Lebanon, Ind., <http://www.bccn.boone.in.us/mg/>

April 4 -- Hendricks County "Gardening for All Ages," Hendricks County Fairgrounds and Conference Center, <http://www.hendricksgardeners.com>

April 18-19 -- Purdue SpringFest (including Student Hort Show and Bug Bowl), Purdue West Lafayette Campus, <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/sfest/>

April 18-26 -- Cincinnati Flower Show, new location at Symmes Township Park, Symmes Township, Ohio, (800) 670-6808 or <http://www.cincyflowershow.com/>

April 25 -- Garden Expo, Purdue Master Gardeners, Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, Lafayette, Ind., <http://www.tippecanoemastergardener.org/news.html>

May 1-3 -- Orchard in Bloom Garden Show, Holliday Park, Indianapolis, Ind., (317) 713-5720 or <http://www.orchardinbloom.org/>