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## Upcoming Morgan County MGA Meetings

By Judy Turner

I am still working on the programs for 2010, but the first two meetings have been set. Meetings will begin at 6:30 (this is a change from last year, because several members reported difficulty in arriving at the earlier start time). We will have brief refreshments (15 minutes), with the speaker presentation starting at 6:45. The business portion of the meeting will begin at 7:45.

Thursday, Feb 4 (Morgan County Fairgrounds, Wilbur Kendall Room)—Russ Vernon of New Vision Orchids, will talk about types of orchids and their care. He will demonstrate things such as repotting, and will have plants with him for sale.

Thursday, Mar 4 (Morgan County Fairgrounds, Wilbur Kendall Room)—Kathy Hull, Master Gardener, will present "Female Complaints in the Garden." This talk is about the history of the use of plants to treat "women's problems," but will be of interest to both sexes!

Mark your calendars now, as the July 1 meeting will be held at Soules Gardens. This should be very interesting and beautiful, as the daylilies will be in bloom.

This year, we are planning to have some meetings in the Art Center, and perhaps at the library in Martinsville, as well as the Fairgrounds. We would also like to meet at someone's home, if you have a garden you are willing to share with the group! Please let me know if you would like to host a meeting

## 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GARDEN FEST By Diane Cockerham

Our 7th Annual Garden Fest and Pansy Sale is fast approaching. Please mark your calendars with the following dates and times: Friday, March 19th from 3pm to 8pm, and Saturday, March 20th from 9am to 5pm.

Our event will be again held at the **National Guard Armory located at 1900 Hospital Drive, in Martinsville.** Pictures of the pansies for sale will be coming soon to the website.

Please open up your schedules as Bonnie Kohl will be calling members to ask for help with Garden Fest on the respective days.



2009 Gardenfest Booth Space is now available. Contact Diane Cockerham.

## President's Column

Waiting for spring...I imagine everyone is looking forward to the first green sprout. The plethora of seed catalogues help to bring warm weather closer to reality. As I look out over my frozen gardens it is hard to imagine lush green and growing things. While perusing the catalogues the herb sections caught my eye. Aroma therapy is popular and home grown herbs are wonderful. We certainly can use some of our aromatic homegrown herbs in sachets and potpourris.

Obviously as domestic gardeners we can not extract essential oils from our herbs. These oils can be found at health food stores. Some research into herbs and essential oils revealed an herbal traveling kit. If you have a trip coming up you might want to pack this into your suitcase. Pure essential oils (not manufactured ones) can affect our physical, emotional and mental well-being. For example, lavender essential oil is used to relax and relieve sleeplessness. A sachet made with home dried lavender blossoms under your pillow will give a restful sleep after a busy travel day. Peppermint essential oil can be used to perk you up in the morning. Peppermint tea and chamomile tea will sooth an upset stomach. Chamomile tea will also soothe traveler's anxiety. Ginger tea will relieve motion sickness and calm a jittery stomach. A recipe for traveler's aroma salts can be made as follows:

Combine ¼ cup rock salt with 10 drops lavender or peppermint essential oil. You can divide the salts among small containers to pack in your suitcase. Open a container when needed. The lavender salts will relax and induce sleep and the peppermint salts will revive you. Inhale and enjoy!

For both travelers and home bodies, I hope to see you at our first meeting in 2010. It will be Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Kendall room in the 4-H building at the Morgan County Fair Grounds. There will be refreshments from 6:30 to 6:45 PM with a speaker to follow. A business meeting will wrap up the evening around 8:15 - 8:30 PM. See you there!

Ruth Pelouch, President  
Morgan County Master Gardeners

## Follow Up from Hosta Presentation

By Judy Turner

At the November meeting, Bill Ward spoke to the group about hostas. He has provided some follow up information that the group requested. Bill suggested planting hostas in nursery bags turned inside out. These bags are called TexR Agro CT bags, and come in 1, 3, 5, 7, and 10 gallon sizes (also larger sizes, but he thought no one would need anything larger). They are available from: MacKenzie Nursery Supply [www.mnsinc.cc](http://www.mnsinc.cc) 1-800-777-5030

Bill suggests we might make a combined order, if several people are interested, to save on shipping costs.

Bill also wanted to alert the group not to compost hosta leaves. He said he composts almost everything else, but not the hostas, as it could spread disease and foliar nematodes.

## Upcoming Events

- June 18-19, 2010  
**2010 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference**  
Purdue - West Lafayette Campus  
**Save the date!**  
For information: [purduemg@purdue.edu](mailto:purduemg@purdue.edu)
- July 1-14, 2010  
**England and Its Gardens**  
**International Study Abroad for Purdue Master Gardeners**

Priority for enrollment is Purdue MGs, but you are welcome to bring a guest. If the class is not filled with Purdue MGs, open enrollment will be extended to MGs from other states.

The program flier can be downloaded from our webpage at  
<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/eaig/>



**Chinese Lunar New Year Stamp** – To commemorate the *Year of the Tiger*, the designer of this year's stamp chose the Narcissus Flower. Considered auspicious anytime of the year, it is a symbol of renewed hope. This year, *Chinese New Year* coincides with the **St. Valentine's Day** Celebration – **February 14, 2010**.

**Growing Narcissus** – There is just enough time to start narcissus to have them bloom in time for **Valentine's Day** and the **Chinese New Year**. Narcissus was a mortal in Greek mythology whose life was interfered with by the gods. When he died, all that was left in his place was a white flower. You should be able to find some Narcissus bulbs. You will need a container to plant them in and some good potting soil. Fill the container half full with soil and water the soil. Put the bulbs into the soil with the flat side on the soil and pointy side facing up; don't crowd, and don't cover the bulbs with soil. Place the uncovered bulbs in a dark, cool place for about 3 weeks or until the roots have started to form. To test if roots have formed, tug gently at the bulbs. If they seem firmly placed in the soil, then roots have become well established. Once the bulbs have been established, move them into a sunny room. In about 3 to 4 weeks, your bulbs will bloom. Once the bulbs begin to bloom, water the soil to keep it moist but not

### **TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT** By TOM FLATT

It appears we have had a good year with membership. Sixty-two members have paid their 2010 dues. We gained about half the 09 master gardener class (15) but lost 9 old members. All delinquent members were mailed dues notices so we might pick up a couple more members. We will try to put out the new membership directory in late February.

The Executive Board identified the Associations activities for this year and has established a budget for each activity. It will be up to the various committees to work within those budgets. I will pay any receipts authorize by the committee chairs or designated committee representative, but any expenditures outside of the budget will have to be authorized by the Board. My son and his girlfriend established an excel spreadsheet that tracks each expenditure by budgeted activity and automatically calculates remaining budget amounts and the checking account balance. I will use this for my treasurer's reports.

Several members have submitted their community service and training hours to our extension educator. Everyone needs to do this for hours accumulated through 2009 no matter how many hours you have. The Association decided last year to keep track of active members (anyone who turns in hours). It is very important to the Association that interns get certified as master gardeners and that certified members maintain their certification. Turning in hours does not necessarily mean you meet certification requirement, but not turning in hours definitely means you are not meeting certification requirements. So, having an active designation in the membership directory is important.

I think we will have some time at the next meeting to talk about completing the tracking forms. We hope to have a couple of the membership committee members trained to assist members in completing the form and providing members a means to acquire training and community service hours.

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Celebration by the Johnson County Garden Club  
By Marilyn Bickley**

The 6th Annual Garden Celebration sponsored by the Johnson County Garden Club and the Johnson County Purdue Master Gardener program will be held Saturday May 1, 2010 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Scott Hall located at the Johnson County Fairgrounds. Admission is \$2.00 or a canned food item which will be donated to the Inter-church Food Pantry. Check out our vendors for plants and unique garden items.

Seminars will be also be hosted. Seminar topics and times are still being finalized. Speakers and times will be announced as soon as possible. Chokeberry, dogwood and tulip tree seedlings will be given away while supplies last. Both breakfast and lunch will be served by the local Delta Theta Tau sorority.

Any one interested in booth space should contact Carolyn Williams at 317-736-8080. All booths must offer garden related items only. Booth space is \$30.00.

See you May 1, at the 6th Annual Garden Celebration held at the Johnson County Fairgrounds.