



# Over The Fence ... and Crossing County Lines

West Virginia Master Gardener Newsletter  
Issue 5, February 2004

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**BOARD NEWS:** The West Virginia Master Gardener Association Board of Directors held its quarterly meeting on January 10, 2004 in Flatwoods. Some highlights were:

- Wood County makes final preparations for the Annual Conference to be held May 14-16 in Parkersburg. More details Page 2 of this issue.
- Morgan County is in charge of the live and silent auctions during this year's Annual Conference. They also will host the 2005 Annual Conference at Cacapon State Park May 13-15, 2005. More details on Page 3 of this issue.
- A West Virginia Master Gardener Association display is being created to exhibit at fairs, meetings, etc. Any ideas are welcome.
- Upcoming events:
  - Tuesday, March 2, 2004 is WVU Extension Day at the Legislature.
  - The next Board meeting will be held May 14, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. during the Annual Conference in Parkersburg.
  - The July 12, 2004, Board Meeting will be in Morgantown followed by a tour of President David Hardesty's Gardens at 3:00 p.m.
  - August 13-24, 2004, West Virginia State Fair, Fairlea, West Virginia
- The Ad Hoc Education Committee is looking for names to create a state-wide Speakers Bureau. More details on Page 4 of this issue.

## **IT'S BEEN A YEAR ALREADY!**

- Since its formation at the July 13, 2002 Board of Directors Meeting, the Public Relations (Publicity) Committee has been diligently working on each edition of the newsletter.
- I would like to thank each member of this Committee for their hard work. They are: Gary Perigo, Marshall County; John Griggs, Monongalia County; Alicia Tyler, Kanawha County; Elizabeth Osborne, Mercer County and Jonna Kusky, Marshall County.
- REMEMBER, WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF MORE ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER AND LOOK FORWARDING TO RECEIVING AN ARTICLE FROM YOU!

Polly Reynolds

## A Heritage of Garden Delights

Wood County Master Gardeners are bursting with excitement and bustling with arrangements for this year's conference, A Heritage of Garden Delights.

From the gardens of George Washington's Mount Vernon to the grounds of the Blennerhassett's estate, Master Gardeners are invited to celebrate a spring of remembrance and renewal. Special events offered include a garden tour and tea in the Juliana-Square Historic District, a tour of the new Wood County Library Arboretum, a video corner, the Gardeners Exchange and exhibits of antique tools, bonsai and native American plants.

Master Gardeners are encouraged to come early and stay late. The Garden Tour of Juliana Square Historical District is from 4-6 on Friday. The cost is \$10 per person. Maps and complete directions will be provided at the registration desk. The Gardeners Exchange begins at 7 PM with informal presentations from experts. Vonda Marlow of Marlow's Fisheries and Water Gardens will discuss pond plants, Kathy Williams of Country Manor Herbs and Such will present Biblical herbs, Master Gardener Linda Watkins will present her specialty, 18th century flower arranging, Suzanne Watson, President of Wood County Master Gardeners will discuss the progress of the Edison Arboretum Reclamation projects.

Gardeners can test their GIQ (Gardener's Information Quotient) at the "Go Native" Display of native and non native plants, and during Gardener's Jeopardy.

Breakout sessions on Saturday provide an opportunity to discover the historical role of herbs and plants in healing, how to use native grasses, diagnosing and treating plant diseases and the national community beautification project, America in Bloom. Gardeners will quickly share Marcella Blomberg's fascination with ferns and be delighted with Edlene Woods's edible wild foods. Hints on growing mushrooms, tomatoes, and urban trees are on the agenda along with identifying and defending against invasive plants. Maxine Scarbro, former West Virginia and National President of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs will reveal her secrets of leadership. The lunch buffet is included in the price of registration

On Saturday afternoon, have the ferry ride (\$7) to Blennerhassett Island. Tours of the Mansion are \$3. A conducted tour through the Library Arboretum features native West Virginia plants, and a variety of ecosystems, including a large pond.

Saturday evening, join the group for a social, cash bar and a sneak peak at the auction items. Dinner is included in the price of registration. The Live Auction benefiting the Scholarship Fund is hosted by the Morgan County Master Gardeners.

On Sunday morning, start the day with a buffet breakfast buffet, included in the price of registration, before annual business meeting from 9-10. The conference concludes with the inspiring story of the research and restoration of the gardens at Mt. Vernon. Master Gardeners are encouraged to visit nearby places of interest, like Marlow's Fisheries and Water Gardens, Firefly Hollow Day Lilies, Wild Birds Unlimited, Country Manor Herbs and, of course, the Edison Arboretum before heading home, to continue the heritage of garden delights.

Pat Lawrence, Wood County

### State Conference Auction in May!

Hope to see you all in May in Parkersburg for the 2005 State Master Gardener Conference. Looks like it will be outstanding. We also want to have an outstanding Auction as part of the Conference. All of the auction proceeds go to support the WV Master Gardener Education Fund for scholarships at the college level. The more money we raise, the more scholarships we can hand out!

So start collecting items now to send or bring to the State Conference. No item is too large (as long as you can get it there and the lucky buyer can get it home) or too small. Garden, art and education items are particularly attractive. Items which might serve as an attractive raffle item is also desirable. Something unique to your County or your Master Gardener program would be great.

If you wish to send it ahead of time, please send to the Wood County Cooperative Extension Office, 1 Court Square, Suite 401, Parkersburg, WV 26101-7500. Or bring it to the Conference. If you can let us know ahead of time what you are sending or bringing to the conference, it would be helpful. Send such information to [larrylower@yahoo.com](mailto:larrylower@yahoo.com). Or you can call Larry with the information or questions at 304-258-3815.

We want to make this the best ever, so be creative and dig out those great auction items that someone will just have to take home. See you at the Conference.

### Greenhouse Tips

Do these cold, snowy winter days have you day dreaming about owning your own greenhouse? If so, and you are a do-it-yourselfer who enjoys gardening, you may have considered building a greenhouse from scratch but found the job intimidating. Fortunately, a variety of kits are available to simplify the task. Although kits can make construction easier, choosing the right one requires at least as much planning. Before you shop, ask yourself these questions:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Is my yard suitable for a greenhouse?  | 2. How large should my greenhouse be?    |
| 3. How much money am I willing to spend?  | 4. What framing material do I want?      |
| 5. What type of windows do I need?        | 6. How do I provide venting?             |
| 7. How do I plan to heat the greenhouse?  | 8. How much prep am I willing to do?     |
| 9. How much construction do I want to do? | 10. How much light do I need to provide? |
| 11. How will I water the plants?          | 12. What other extras should I consider? |

Once you've answered these questions, use the Internet to see what various manufacturers offer. You can check [www.HandymanClub.com](http://www.HandymanClub.com) for a list of manufacturers, suppliers and other online greenhouse resources (and their links). As with any project, exploring all available options will help you define and then realize your dream—a greenhouse that will serve your needs and enhance your landscape for many years.

Joe Provey, Member, Handyman Club of America  
*Handyman Club of America Magazine, Jan/Feb 2004*

### Creating A Speakers Bureau

Dear Master Gardeners:

In developing a 3 to 5 Year Plan for the West Virginia Master Gardener Association, the Board of Directors targeted needs, and goals were set. During the October Board meeting, these needs and goals were evaluated--some have been accomplished, some are in progress, some revised, some dropped, and some are in the beginning stages.

The Education Committee - Ad Hoc, in its beginning stages, was created for developing training and membership responsibilities. The goals of this Committee are: identify speakers for and create a speakers bureau; identify existing advanced training curriculum; expand and improve the State Conference; network with other states; network with other state organizations to form partnerships; and encourage a mentoring system and project involvement early in the Master Gardener program.

The Education Committee is asking for each County Association's help in establishing a list of individuals from their Association and/or community to address the first goal, which is the Speakers Bureau. The individuals named for the Bureau should be willing to speak to other County Associations, communities, schools, etc. imparting their knowledge of gardening, in the areas of their interests, in a format of their choosing--such as workshops, demonstrations, or speeches.

A Speakers Bureau will be a benefit to everyone. Each County Association would be able to contact a speaker for meetings, classes, continuing ed, etc. We can broaden our base for workshops, conferences, networking, and partnerships. The possibilities and benefits are endless. So please, please, PLEASE! Ask around, take down some information, announce this at your next meeting, do it as a club or individual project; but we do need your help to accomplish this goal.

Here is what the Committee requests (by permission, of course!):

1. Speakers' names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mails and areas of interest and topics on which they are willing to speak.
2. Speaker's WVMG membership status and County Association belongs to.
3. If not a WVMG member, please note any organization to which they belong.

Hints for getting contacts outside your local Association are check with Garden Clubs, Soil Conservation, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Forestry, greenhouse growers--and don't forget Extension--just to name a few.

Just mail or e-mail your entrants to

Rebecca Eneix Chong  
Rt. 2, Box 126  
Bristol, WV 26332

[charliechong2@mac.com](mailto:charliechong2@mac.com)

Ready to see something blooming? Bloom peaks along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia are usually earlier than in North Carolina due to lower elevation. The selected locations are referenced to Parkway milepost markers beginning with Milepost 0 at Rockfish Gap in Virginia and ending at Milepost 469 in North Carolina. (The letters PA represent Picnic Areas). Here are a few: (for the entire list: <http://www.blueridgeparkway.org/bloom.htm>)

<u>Flowers</u>		<u>Milepost location</u>
	February-March	
Skunk Cabbage ( <i>symplocarpus foetidus</i> )		176.1, 185.8, 217.0
	March-April	
Spring Beauty ( <i>claytonia caroliniana</i> )		Craggy PA
	April-May	
Indian Paintbrush ( <i>castilleja coccinea</i> )		369-371
Bloodroot ( <i>sanguinaria canadensis</i> )		85.6, 191-193, 198.7 294
Trillium ( <i>trillium</i> spp.)		175, 200-216, 339-340, 364.6
	April-June	
Dutchman's Breeches ( <i>dicentra cucullaria</i> )		367.6 PA, 458.2
Foam Flower ( <i>tiarella cordifolia</i> )		396.9, 339.5, 367.7 PA
Witch Hobble-Hobblebush ( <i>viburnum alnifolium</i> )		295.5, 362-367, higher elevations in rich, moist woods
	May	
Large Flowered Trillium ( <i>trillium grandiflorum</i> )		3-7, 64-85, 154.5 PA, 168-169, 175, 330-340, 370-375
Fraser Magnolia ( <i>magnolia fraseri</i> )		173-174, 252-253

### Looking for Lily Information

After years of traveling to California, both the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas primarily, I am always amazed by the variety of plant life grown there. As I wander through numerous botanical gardens, stroll the city streets and check out the back yards of friends and relatives, I always come up with the same question ... "I wonder if this would grow in West Virginia?" Typically I know the answer before I ask--No, of course it won't ---too cold, too wet, too-too; but being a gardener, hope springs eternal--if you know what I mean.

Although there are numerous plants I would like to try, I have been especially enamored at a beautiful blue lily first noticed in my aunt's garden in San Francisco, and then found just about every where in the California landscape. *Agapanthus*, AKA Lily of the Nile, Egyptian Lily, and African Blue Lily are exotic in every sense of the word. The genus is native to South Africa. Its range stretches from the Cape Peninsula to the mountains south of the Limpopo River. It was first cultivated in Europe in the late 17th Century. A *africanus*, a strappy basal leafed evergreen species was the first to reach foreign soil and is classified as a tender perennial. It has since been joined by several other slightly hardier members of the genus, which include *A.campanulatus*, *A.caulescens*, and *A.inapertus*, zoned for 7. Well, I thought that's that. Then as I was skimming through a magazine one day, a letter to the editor on *agapanthus* caught my eye. Low and behold, the writer was from West Virginia and Greenbrier County! She stated that she had been growing the lily in her gardens for a couple of years without the annual fall exhumation and that they were also grown at the Greenbrier Hotel! So ... is Greenbrier County in Zone 7, or do you southern West Virginians know the secret? At any rate, I would love any information anyone could provide such as planting depth--i.e. is it deeper than usual; mulching, south side protection, etc. I am going to give them a try, but extra knowledge may give them a better edge. If anyone has any information, please e-mail me at: [charliechong2@mac.com](mailto:charliechong2@mac.com) or better yet, respond with an article in our newsletter and share the information with everyone.

Thanks

Becky Chong, Hampshire County Master Gardener

### “Et Tu Brute”

Latin! You’ve got to be kidding. No one speaks Latin. It’s a dead language. What’s the point?

The point is that Latin, at least in one sense, is definitely not dead. It is spoken on a regular basis by doctors, lawyers, scientists, biologists, botanists, and gardeners everyday. It is as alive as the earth and the plants of our backyard flower beds. It is spoken on a daily basis at your local greenhouse and nursery.

“Yeah” you say, “so how does that affect me?” Case in point: You are planning a new flower bed to enhance your home. On your drive to work you’ve admired a lovely tree in someone’s yard and would like to use it as a centerpiece. You stop and inquire of the property owner just what it is. He tells you that it is a Golden Rain Tree. Thrilled, you impart this knowledge to your landscaper. He dutifully follows your instructions and acquires the tree from the nursery and plants it. You anxiously await spring. As the season of rebirth arrives, you notice that the leaves of your cherished centerpiece don’t seem to match its model. They are bronze colored and don’t quite work with your color scheme. Oh well, a quick call to the nursery should set your mind at ease ... The conversation goes something like this:

*Introductions, of course, then*

Gardener: “I have a Golden Rain Tree but the leaves are bronze colored.”

Nursery: “Yes, this is the color when young. As it ages, the leaves will be a bright green.”

G: “Great, but one other thing, are they a different shape when young also?”

N: “No. They shouldn’t be. What variety do you have?”

G: “Well, I don’t exactly know. The one I want has dark green leaves divided into 3 leaflets.”

N: “I don’t know of any variety of Golden Rain Tree that fits that description.”

G: “Hmmm. Well, will it have those long chains of yellow ‘pea-like’ blossoms?”

N: “No. It has large clusters of small, bright yellow flowers marked with red centers, followed by green bladder-like fruit.”

G: “Egad! That’s not what I ordered. I specifically requested a Golden Rain Tree!”

N: “Yes, M’amm.” That’s what you have.”

G: “Well, what is the tree I just described?”

N: “Oh, well that’s a ‘Golden CHAIN Tree’ or rather a *Laburnum*. Most likely a *L.alpinum* or a *L.xwateri*.”

G: “Oh”, you respond meekly. And as you hang up the telephone, the cost of the tree removal runs through your head.

This is a common problem with common names. One can never be certain that you and your fellow gardening enthusiasts are conversing about the same plant. This is especially true when talking with folks from other areas. What one knows as a “Bluet”, another may call a “Dutch Lady” or “Blue Betty”; but if say “*Houstonia caerulea* (Rubiaceae), everyone knows the exact flower you are referring to. Even your non-english speaking colleague from Albania.

Learning the Latin names of plants can mean no more wasted money at nurseries, getting exactly the plant you want, and never being reduced to ... “you know--it has these 4 little blue petals and is short, grows in clumps, ya-da, ya-da, ya-da...”

To this end, and for those interested, an article on Latin pronunciation of various plants will appear in each newsletter as long as there is interest. Helpful hints for learning and pronunciation will be passed along as they are discovered and contributions in this area are warmly welcomed. Each list will contain 20 names which averages to just 5 names a month, until the next list. With that said...

- |    |                 |                 |                   |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Agapanthus      | africanus       | Lilly of the Nile |
|    | ag-uh-PAN-thuss | aff-rih-KAY-nus |                   |

2.	Agropyron ag-roe-PYE-run	repens REE-pens	Quack Grass
3.	Alliaceae al-ee-AY-see-ee		Onion Family
4.	Allium AL-ee-um	cristophii KRISS-toff-ee-eye	short variety of Ornamental Onion
5.	Athyrium uh-THEER-ee-um	felix - femina FYE-licks FEM-ih-nuh	Lady Fern
6.	Begonia bih-GO-nyuh		Begonia
7.	Berberis BUR-bur-iss		Barberry
8.	Brassicaceae brass-ih-KAY-see-ee		Mustard Family
9.	Buxus BUCKS-us		Boxwood
10.	Campsis KAMP-siss	Grandiflora gran-dih-FLORE-uh	Trumpet Vine
11.	Campanula kum-PAN-you-luh		Bellflower
12.	Canna KAN-uh		Canna
13.	Cerastium sur-ASS-tee-um	vulgatum vul-GAY-tum	Mouse-ear Chickweed
14.	Claytonia klay-TOE-nee-uh	virginica vur-JIN-ih-kuh	Spring Beauty
15.	Dahlia DAL-ya		Dahlia
16.	Dalea DAY-lee-uh	frutescens froo-TESS-enz	Black Dalea
17.	Daucus DAW-kus	carota kuh-ROE-tuh	Queen Anne's Lace
18.	Dendranthema x den-DRAN=thuh-muh	grandiflorum gran-dih-FLORE-um	Chrysanthemum
19.	Echinacea eck-ih-NAY-see-uh	purpurea pur-PUR-ee-uh	Purple Coneflower
20.	Erythronium air-ih-THROE-nea-um		Dogstooth Violet

Becky Eneix-Chong, Harrison County Master Gardener

HINT: Try and learn the Latin names for flowers/plants already in your flower beds. Familiarity helps. Then refrain from using the common names until the Latin is firmly rooted. (No pun intended!)