



Volume 6, June 2004

Over The Fence ... and Crossing County Lines

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You Never Know What You'll Find When You're Weeding ,

Polly Reynolds, New River
Master Gardeners

Board News:

-The West Virginia Master Gardener Association is preparing a State Exhibit to make its debut at the State Fair in Fairlea, August 13-22. Your County's project photos are needed. Contact Polly at lpreyonlds@aol.com.

-Volunteers are needed for the Master Gardener demonstration garden at the State Fair in Fairlea, August 13-22. Contact Willa and Pat at wilpat@frontier.net.

Looking ahead:

-Make a day of Master Gardening! The next Board of Directors Meeting will be July 12, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Monongalia County Extension Office, 26 Commerce Drive, Morgantown. A tour of the West Virginia Botanical Garden will begin at 1:00pm [directions will be sent to those responding by RSVP to (304) 744-5255 or WVMGAraber@aol.com] and concluding with a tour of Blaney House (WVU Presiden't home) and gardens from 3-4:30 p.m. [RSVP requested by July 7, 2004 (304) 293-7132 or IA_Event_Management@mail.wvu.edu]

*****ALL MASTER GARDENERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND!*****

-2004 Northeast Regional Master Gardener Conference will be held October 5-9 in Baltimore, Maryland

Σ John Griggs shared this clever idea with us during a break at the Conference:

Having trouble storing those extension cords? Save the cardboard tube from your paper towels. Wrap your cord lengthwise, about the same size as the tube. Slide the wrapped extension cord into the tube. .

. Now, why didn't I think of that!?!

Conference Wrap-up:

Another Annual Conference has come and gone—and what a Conference it was! Approximately 150 attended and found the accommodations great, the food delicious, the speakers excellent, and Wood County's hospitality unbeatable!

The following people were recognized at the Awards Banquet:

MASTER GARDENER OF THE YEAR

Frank Saus - Monongalia County

OUTSTANDING COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS-2004

Berkeley	Gabi Gimbel
Cabell	Roy Mallory
Hancock/Brooke	Barb Zagula
Harrison	Bill Klenk
Jefferson	Lillian Potter Saum
Kanawha	Sara Hoblitzell
Marion	Janet Cain
Marshall	Liz Harper
Monongalia	Kerr Crosby
Monongalia	Linda Saus
Morgan	Midge Hollon
New River-Fayette	Betty Harler
New River-Raleigh	Ed Neil
Ohio	Kathie Roth
Preston	Wilma & Dareld Carder
Wood	Judi White

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

Youth Category-Fayetteville Middle School Pirate Pioneers Conservation Club Weed Party

New River-Fayette Master Gardeners. For more information, contact: lpreyonlds@aol.com

Master Gardener Awareness- Monongalia Master Gardeners Handbook 2003

Neva Gocke and Kerr Crosby, Monongalia Master Gardeners

For more information, contact: ngocke@adelphia.net

Innovative Project- First Aid for the Master Gardener

Nancy Roder, Monongalia Master Gardener

For more information, contact: ngocke@adelphia.net

Demonstration Garden-WV State Fair Demonstration Garden

Greenbrier Valley Master Gardeners

Willa Izzo, Pat Izzo, Mark Corr, Bettie Woodward, Reagan Simms, Sam Hudson, Tate Hudson, and Judy Luwallen

For more information, contact: wilpat@frontiernet.net

Workshop or Presentation-"Sharpen Your Garden Skills" workshop

New River-Fayette Master Gardeners: Dinah Radford, Susan Harlan, Rick Rutledge, Polly Reynolds, Ellen Scheel, Chris Goodson, Betty Harler, Sharon Harvey, Brenda Moore, Lynn

Pollard, Barbara Fedders, Jim Gaal, Tim Pyles, Leah Thomas, Rhonda Loving, Karen Martin, Sharon Ooten, Barbara Shrewsbury, Janna Fetz, Arville Gunnoe, Tom Koontz,

For more information, contact: jescheel@hawksnet.net

Community Service- Individual-Wildflowers of the Deckers Creek Rail-Trail

Karen Toothman, Preston County Master Gardener

For more information, contact: karentoothman@hotmail.com

Community Service-Group-"Connecting with Herbs"

Putnam County Master Gardeners

For more information, contact: Wayne.Bennett@mail.wvu.edu

Horticulture Therapy-Heartland Nursing Home Garden Project

Dinah Radford, New River-Raleigh County Master Gardener

For more information, contact: Dradfordcom@aol.com

General Accomplishment-Kanawha County Master Gardener Association Database

Gladys Kuhn, Fran Moore, George Daniels, Becky Proctor, Kanawha County Master Gardeners

For more information, contact: GladysKuhn@aol.com

Variety Trial Record Keeping

Donna Wauer, Monroe County

Dr. John Jett, Morgantown

Jill Dolen, Marshall County

Anna Galownia, Hancock/Brooke County

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world...
indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

Thanks to all Master Gardeners across West Virginia who made the auction at the recent State Conference such an outstanding success, not only financially, but in fun. A large crowd, spurred on by our entertaining and very effective auctioneer, Brian Sparks, County Agent from Fayette and Nicolas Counties. Our income for the WVMG Scholarship Fund was raised to new levels--aided by a large number of excellent donated items. The silent, mystery and live auctions brought in over \$5000 for the Scholarship Fund. All of you who were so vigorous in procuring or donating items, and those of you who were either excited by or generous in the bidding, made it an excellent and fun event. Thanks to the Eastern Panhandle group for organizing the event and particularly to Abby Chapple and Gale Foulds who struggled with the deluge of donations. Turn your thoughts to next year and support the Committee from Brooke and Hancock counties who will be organizing that auction.

Larry Lower, Morgan County

Top Quality Merchandise Still Available.

What better way to identify the wearer as a West Virginia Master Gardener than with high-quality sports items! The shirts are white and imprinted with a three-color West Virginia Master Gardener logo and we have a limited quantity as follows:

Long Sleeved Crewneck T-shirts @ \$10.00 each

(6) XL

(13) Large

(2) Medium

Long Sleeved Crewneck T-Shirt @ 12.00

(1) XXL

Short Sleeved Polo Shirts in large @ \$13.00

In addition, we have caps and visors which are embroidered with "West Virginia Master Gardener" and come in a variety of colors. The caps are navy and purple (2 separate colors) and the visors are navy, red, gold and olive (4 separate colors). Hats are \$7.00 each and visors are \$6.00 each. A bargain at twice the price!

If you are interested in purchasing any of this official WVMGA merchandise it can be shipped to you for a small shipping and handling fee. For more information, contact Delores Barber at:

(304) 744-5255

P. O. Box 10261

Charleston, WV 25357

WVMGAbarber@aol.com

Let us be gentle with everything on earth.
Let us count as friends the land and skies,
the water, and all the creatures that live.

Author unknown

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'LL FIND WHEN WEEDING!

As usual, I was way behind weeding the garden, so I set out one Sunday afternoon to try and catch up. **That's when I saw IT!** I wasn't sure what **IT** was, but I knew I had never seen anything like **IT** before. It looked like a bulb of some type sitting on a small white stem with maroon spots. The bulb part was also maroon, about 2" in diameter at the bulb part, and got smaller as it curved its way up to a point--about 18" tall all together--and it looked as if the pointed part was getting ready to open. I had to call Ellen to come and see if she had seen anything like this! She hadn't!

Being Master Gardeners, we HAD to find out what **IT** was. Ellen checked the internet for bog plants and I checked my books for native plants. I took pictures and showed it to just about everyone I came in contact with. Everyone had their own opinion. Even my husband, had his--it was a small space ship harboring an alien that was going to come out of the plant and devour all of Fayette County!

The next morning I couldn't wait to go out and check **IT**. The pointed part had opened up to display the most gorgeous leaf with a pale green back ground and maroon splotches that curved around the tall slender part. What could **IT** be?!?

I took the pictures to a local author who has written 2 books on native West Virginia plants. He couldn't tell me what **IT** was, but he could tell me **IT** was not American. His theory was that **IT** was an exotic plant--probably from Costa Rica. But he couldn't figure out how **IT** got in my yard. Being a big fan of the New River Birding and Nature Festival, I explained that my yard was a natural habitat and I was trying to encourage migrating neotropical birds. He then changed his theory to **IT** was an exotic plant a hummingbird had brought from Costa Rica! JUST WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR!!!

I then took the pictures, like a proud grandparent, to a local Master Gardener who has the most incredible garden in Fayette County. I'm not exaggerating...an aerial view of his garden was used in the recent movie, *A Date With Tad Hamilton!* Ralph knows everything about plants, but this time I went to show him something I was sure he didn't know!

He took one look at the picture, and nonchalantly said, "**IT's** a voodoo lily." Then went and got a catalog and showed me a picture of **IT**. Yes, that's right. **IT** is in a catalog--**IT** is a *Sauromatum enosum* (voodoo lily--aka: *S. guttatum*, *Arum cornutum*, *Typhonium venosum*). **IT** originated in India, and you can even buy **IT** for a mere \$12.00.

But that's O.K. I didn't buy mine, I didn't have to--my migrating hummingbirds brought **IT**--and not from Costa Rica, from India!

Polly Reynolds, New River Master Gardeners

All gardening is landscape painting.

Alexander Pope, English poet