

# The Green Times

All the News That's Fit to Plant

The Newsletter of Monongalia County Master Gardeners,  
Vol. IV, No. 1, January, February, March, 2004

## It All Adds Up

At the November, 2003, MG meeting, Linda Saus reported that from October 1, 2002 to October 1, 2003, Monongalia County Master Gardeners gave 1,231 hours of service to the following projects:

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| X WVU Greenhouse              | X Farmers Market      |
| X NRCS Earth Team             | X WVU Ag Farm         |
| X Downtown Morgantown Baskets | X Garlow House        |
| X Morgantown Tree Board       | X WVU Botanic Gardens |

These hours also represent work in community gardens in a wide variety of locations, such as:

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| X Courthouse Square         | X Jack Roberts Park |
| X Mason Dixon Historic Park | X Ritchie County    |
| X St. John's Garden         | X Suncrest Triangle |

The Master Gardeners also acquired a total of 371.75 hours of education. Have you reported *your* service and education hours to Linda Saus? Her address is: [MGhours@mindspring.com](mailto:MGhours@mindspring.com)

## Importance of Farms

The Journal Newspaper of Martinsburg, WV, recently carried a series of articles under the heading "Cultivating Jefferson [County]." Staff writers considered many phases of farming from raising a barn to raising a profit.

In 2001, farmers, business leaders, local officials, and many interested residents formed the Jefferson County Agricultural Task Force. "We want farmers to make more money than they can by selling their property," stated a local veterinarian and chairman of the task force. Craig Yohn, WVU Extension agent in Jefferson County is quoted as saying, "for every dollar a residential property pays in taxes, the residents of that property use \$1.30 in services like law enforcement, education, and fire protection. For every dollar an agricultural property pays in taxes, the owners use 32 cents in services." Saving the county's agricultural heritage evolved into a strategic plan to find markets, protect farmland, and find new ways to farm.

The task force is moving toward a shared-use processing facility for farm products. The articles cite the experience of a local farmer who has diversified his products and begun selling directly to the public. In summer, he has a vegetable stand on his farm and he sells at the local farmers' market one day a week year-round, and three days a week during the peak season.

The series raises some interesting questions and speculates on solutions and opportunities for development that bear on our participation in the Morgantown Farmers' Market.

## The Gardener's Bed-Book

Lucky is the person who has a copy of *The Gardener's Bed-Book* by Richardson Wright. It was originally published in 1929 and is now a classic—one of a series of eight books called *The Modern Library Gardening Series* (New York, 2003). *The Gardener's Bed-Book* is “short and long prose to be read in bed by those who love green growing things.” Wright’s observations are instructive, philosophical, and funny. “So much to plant! So little planted! This can be carved on the gravestone of a garden-lover.” Wright says of his own book, “these odd bits and pieces are merely inconsequential thoughts about gardening and country folk, gathered over a decade by two people who collect queer things and fuss with their flowers”—but any gardener will find that they will read like the diary and letters of an old friend.

## Next Master Gardener State Conference

Check and mark your calendars for May 14, 15, and 16, 2004. The State MG Conference will be in Parkersburg, Wood County, West Virginia. This is an opportunity to acquire education hours and meet friendly Master Gardeners from other counties.

## Need Service Hours?

Contact Kay Beamer if you are not involved in any of our service projects. Ronald McDonald House Healing Gardens and Garlow House are projects sure to reactivate this Spring.

## Classified Advertising

Personal. Have you paid your \$15 dues to keep your membership in the Mon County Master Gardeners current? Have you sent in your service and education hours?

## MASTER GARDENER OFFICERS AND CONTACT NAMES FOR 2003-04

<b>President</b>	Neva Gocke	<b>Certification</b>	Linda Saus
<b>Vice President</b>	Ed Hawkins	<b>State Representative</b>	Neva Gocke & Linda Hildebrand
<b>Secretary</b>	Bobbie Hawkins	<b>Garlow House</b>	Neva Gocke
<b>Treasurer</b>	Viera Trapp	<b>Historian</b>	Tim Klus
<b>Education</b>	Frank Saus	<b>Baskets</b>	Kerr Crosby
<b>Program</b>	Darlene Fogarty Patricia Miller	<b>Projects</b>	Kay Beamer

## January/February/March 2003 CALENDAR

Local Master Gardner Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	January 7, 2004
Local Master Gardner Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	February 4, 2004
Local Master Gardner Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	March 3, 2004