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www.uvm.edu/mastergardener

BENNINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



Calendar of Events

Table with 2 columns: Event Name and Date. Rows include Vermont Flower Show, MG Visit to Basic Course, WBTV MG Radio program, Potluck with Leonard Perry, Intern Reception, and Walloomsac Farmer's Market.

Potluck with Leonard Perry

Lecturer, author and UVM Extension professor Leonard Perry has graciously accepted an invitation to visit Bennington on Thursday, April 12th.

The event is co-sponsored by the Bennington Chapter of Master Gardeners and the Bennington Garden Club and will be held at the Universalist Meeting House, 108 School Street.

A favorite lecturer of the MG Basic Course, Leonard was perhaps last in the area to film an episode of "Across the Fence" which featured local MG projects.

There is a lot of work left to be done for the event, so if you are interested in helping, please contact: Kim Bina at kim.bina@adelphia.net

Walloomsac Farmer's Market Set to Begin

By Sue Rice

Are you ready to make new friends? Pick up some healthy and nutritious veggies and bakery items? Enjoy sunshine and fresh air?

We start at 9:30 am to set up an MG info booth. At 10 am we are ready to go with answers to any gardening questions that the public may have.

There is resource material available, but we encourage you to bring your own that you may be comfortable with.

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MG RESOURCES

- Chapter Chair: TJNorris, tjn18@hotmail.com
State Advisory Board: Kim Bina, kim.bina@adelphia.net; TJNorris, tjn18@hotmail.com
State Coordinator: Nancy Hulett, nancy.hulett@uvm.edu
State Office Manager: Lisa Avery, master.gardener@uvm.edu

Real or Fake?

An email has been circulating lately with photos of the most amazing flower—the Parrot Flower from Thailand. Seems there is controversy surrounding the photos. Are they real, or is someone very skilled with the use of computer graphics?





“Ask an MG” Booth Needs Your Expertise

Personally, I like the American Horticultural Society book on "Gardening"... like a Bible on everthing. Some times MG's bring samples to share from their own gardens...like extra iris', hosta.....you know, when you're doing your own beds and can't bear to just compost the plants. We also get our fair share of composting questions, and the Farmers' Market is a great way to get credits for the Master Composter too. (NO Bull!)

We supply the tent, table, resources....you bring a smile, chair for yourself and an interest to help. Also bring a bag to fill, as the Market has great organic foods, meats, eggs, flowers, veggies, breads and pastries....I could go on and on. We break down at 1pm. So the commitment is not too long and you get credit for 4 hours!

Sign up fast as the slots go quickly...usually 2 people are needed to be involved per week. We start mid-May and end mid-October. Please forward name, phone Number and email to Sue Rice at 447-1077 (paul.rice5@verizon.net) with dates of interest. Hope to see you all there!

Scholarship Available

The Bennington Chapter of the Vermont MG's has been awarded one scholarship to the New England Wildflower Society Symposium at Vermont Technical College in Randolph on April 7th. Details of the Symposium can be found on www.newfs.org. If you are interested in the scholarship, please contact me as soon as possible. I will submit the name of the awardee to Nancy on March 9th.

Submissions are always welcomed—book reviews, garden reviews, personal humorous accounts, gardening tips, photos, updates on projects, continuing education. Email to tjn18@hotmail.com



Master Gardener Hotline:

1-800-639-2230

This 'n That

by TJNorris
Chapter Chair

The Bennington MG's have been approached to help establish two very different types of community gardens. The Town of Pownal is interested in creating an allotment type garden, (each family is allocated a plot within the larger garden) and Bennington Elementary School wants to start a garden in order to grow salad greens and such for their school lunch program. With these possible projects in mind, I attended the Community Garden Symposium held up in Rutland a few weekends ago. The gardening symposium was

a sheer delight to attend. First of all, thinking about spring—tilling the soil, planting the seeds, teaching children the joys of gardening—made the cold winter day pass quickly. Secondly, I had no idea the resources that are available for projects like these. I met the owner of a preschool who started her garden last year, a school administrator that wants to begin a garden for the very same reasons as our own BenEl. I have the contact info for people in 3 towns in Vermont that have successfully established gardens on town land. All this enthusiasm and net-



working was courtesy of Jim Flint (jimf@burlingtongardens.org) and the Friends of Burlington Gardens (www.burlingtongardens.org). What a joy to have such a great resource for organizations like ours!

Front row l-r: Wendy Savery, Cindi Wright
Back row l-r: Judith Irven (MG—Middlebury), Julie Cooper (MG—Rutland), Althea Derstine (MG—Rutland), Marielle Blais, Dan O'Connell, TJ Norris (MG—Bennington)