



April/May 2011

REMINDERS!!

RECORD YOUR HOURS!

To retain your active status, remember to record your 2010 & 2011 service hours and continuing education hours in the book at the Extension Office. Six hours education and 12 hours service required each year.

Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, April 5, 5:00

Program: Wildflowers in Bloom, WV Native Plants & Perennials OFFSITE at Trails End Nursery—Dot Hood

Hosts: Dot Hood & Jean Dawson

Tuesday, May 3, 7:00

Program: Medicinal Plants—Susan Sisler

SILENT AUCTION

Hosts: Carol Myers & Jan Fink

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Preston County Master Gardeners

April 5 Meeting Offsite—TRAILS END NURSERY

This coming meeting will be held off at Dot Hood’s Trails End Nursery in Fairview, WV. There will be two tours—the first starting at 5:00 PM and the second at 6:00 PM. If you wish to carpool, be at the Kingwood Extension office NO LATER THAN 4:00 PM. The carpool will be leaving at precisely 4:00 to get to Fairview in time for the first tour.

If you are driving yourself to Trails End, the following are directions:

- ⊗ Take I79S to RIGHT at exit 137, continue right bearing to left lane as you go on to street, make LEFT at McDonalds.
- ⊗ Follow street (Rt. 310) to an intersection where new connector to I79S comes in, make RIGHT, turn onto bridge.
- ⊗ Counting lights at end of bridge, go to 3rd light and make a LEFT.
- ⊗ Follow signs for Rt. 250N, turn RIGHT at 2nd light.
- ⊗ Continue on Rt. 250N to light at Farmington and turn RIGHT onto Rt. 218 to Fairview.
- ⊗ Continue about six miles to intersection and turn LEFT to Fairview.
- ⊗ Follow main street thru town to diner/restaurant at end. Just beyond about 200' is a road to LEFT, Jesses Run Road.
- ⊗ Take Jesses Run Road past the middle school, cross railroad tracks to about the 6th house on RIGHT.
- ⊗ Turn RIGHT and continue BEYOND log cabin to house all the way back. The mailbox will read: TRAIL'S END.
- ⊗ If you need help, call Dot Hood at (304) 449-1991
198 Jesses Run Road
Fairview WV 26570

Stay up to date with conference announcements!

The 2011 IMGC is using a mailing list, Facebook, and Twitter to keep you updated on conference developments. Email listserv@listserv.wvu.edu with the Subject: **SUBSCRIBE ESIMGC-L** to sign up for email updates.



Follow **IMGC2011** on Twitter and use **#IMGC** to tweet about the conference.



Become a Facebook fan of the 2011 IMGC and network with other gardeners prior to the conference.

There is still time to sign up for the 2011 PCMG Committees! Thanks to those who have already signed up:

Calendar:

Janice Cool
Barb Sanders
Jan Fink
Sue Arnold

Buckwheat Festival:

Becky Friend
Val Smith
Jan Fink
Janet Summers

Newsletter:

Val Smith
Jan Fink

Plant Swap / Silent Auction:

Sue Arnold
Barb Sanders
Peggy Merz
Karen Toothman*

AHI New Deal Festival Garden Judges:

Janice Cool
Jerry Crabtree
Becky Friend
Val Smith
Carol Myers
Janice Cool

Orchard Renovation:

Janet Summers
Sue Arnold
Janet Sites
Peggy Merz

International 2011 Conference:

Jerry Crabtree
Carol Myers
Karen Toothman*

*Was not present at meeting to confirm

A Asparagus comes in several sizes, ranging in diameter from thinner than a drinking straw to fatter than your thumb. Thin, tender spears can be sautéed, steamed, or rubbed lightly with olive oil and grilled. Fatter asparagus spears will need to be trimmed and either steamed or boiled in order to be tender. While some people prefer the smaller spears for their delicacy and tenderness, others like thick asparagus for its more robust flavor and meaty texture.

How to Buy and Store Asparagus: Whatever size you chose, look for firm, brightly colored stalks with tightly closed tips. Asparagus begins to lose its sweetness as soon as it's picked, so try to cook it as soon as possible after you buy it.

If you do plan to store it in your refrigerator for a few days after you get it home, treat it like a bouquet of flowers: trim a small amount from the bottoms of the stalks with a sharp knife and place them in a tall glass with a little water in the bottom. Cover the top loosely with a plastic bag, and store in the refrigerator. This will keep the stalks firm and crisp until you are ready to cook them.

**STRAWBERRY NAPOLEONS****Ingredients**

- ⊗ 1 (3.5 ounce) package instant vanilla pudding and pie filling
- ⊗ 1 cup cold 2%
- ⊗ 1 1/2 cups non-dairy whipped milk topping, thawed
- ⊗ 1/2 (17.25 ounce) package frozen puff pastry, thawed
- ⊗ 1 pint fresh strawberries, thinly sliced
- ⊗ 1/4 cup confectioners' sugar

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Combine pudding mix and cold milk; fold in whipped topping. Refrigerate until ready to use.
2. Unfold pastry on a cool, lightly floured surface. Cut into 3 strips along fold marks, then cut each strip into four equal pieces. Place 2 inches apart on a baking sheet.
3. Bake for 15 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden brown. Remove from baking sheet, and cool.
4. Split pastries into 2 layers, setting the 8 best looking tops aside. Spread 8 bottom layers with dollops of the pudding mixture. Top each with a layer of strawberries, a small amount of pudding, and another pastry layer. (A small amount of the pudding mix on top of the berries will help keep the layers together.) Spread with remaining pudding mixture and strawberries, and top with remaining pastry layers (the best looking ones). Sprinkle with confectioner's sugar. Serves 8.



S Are you working on a project? Do you have any news or have something you'd like to see included in the newsletter? Please submit your requests and/or photos along with a detailed description to:

valro02@gmail.com

2011 PCMG HOST NEEDED!

We need one more host to help Peggy Merz on **July 5**. Please contact Barb Sanders at barbra.sanders@gmail.com if you can host!

2011 Master Garden Certification Classes

The 2011 MG Certification classes will begin March 15, 6:00—9:00 pm and run for 10 weeks. If you know anyone who is interested, or **if you would like to earn volunteer hours by teaching a class**, please contact Bill Shockey at bill.shockey@mail.wvu.edu.



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 4-5, 2011: *Appalachian Grazing Conference*, Waterfront Place Hotel, Morgantown, WV, <http://www.grazeappalachia.org/>

March 6-13, 2011: *Springtime in Paris— 2011 International Philadelphia Flower Show*, Philadelphia, PA, <http://www.theflowershow.com/home/index.html>

March 8, 2011: *Winter Farmer Dinner Meeting*, Masontown Volunteer Fire Department, Masontown, WV—Doors open at 5:30 / Dinner at 6:00 / Program at 7:00—Reproduction Issues-Beef Cattle, Dr. Darin Matlick. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Calf Pool—Dr. Phil Osborne

March 15, 2011: *2011 Master Gardener Certification Class*, Preston County Extension Office, Kingwood, WV—6:00-9:00 PM for 10 weeks

March 24, 2011: *Wardensville Bull Sale, WVU Wardensville Farm*, 2 miles North of Wardensville on SR 259—Sale catalog: <http://www.wvbeef.org/wbt/1011wbtcatalog.pdf>

April 1, 2011: *Ham, Bacon & Egg Show*, Craig Civic Center, Kingwood, WV, 7:00 PM

April 7-10, 2011: *WV Garden Club 81st Annual Convention*, Shepherdstown, WV, http://www.wvgardenclub.com/index.php?p=1_29

April 10-11, 2011: *American Horticulture Society, Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium*, Williamsburg, VA, <http://www.ahs.org>

April 16, 2011: *Western PA Gardening & Landscape Symposium*, Chatham University, <http://allegheny.extension.psu.edu/Horticulture/PSMG/symposium/index.html>

April 16, 2011: *Garden Festival*, WV Cultural Center, Charleston, <http://www.wvculture.org/festivals/GARDENFESTIVAL2011.pdf>

April 30, 2011: *Spring Tonic*, WVU NRCC Bldg, Morgantown, <http://monongalia.ext.wvu.edu/calendar>

May 7, 2011: *WV Herb Assoc Spring Conference*, Beckley

May 21, 2011: *MG Spring Clinic*, Clarksburg

September 24-25, 2011: *Mother Earth News Fair*, Seven Springs, PA, <http://www.motherearthnews.com/fair/SevenSprings.aspx>

October 11-13, 2011: *2011 International Master Gardener Conference*, Charleston, imgc.ext.wvu.edu/ (BREAK OUT SESSIONS ON LINE NOW)

October 15-16, 2011: *WV Herb Assoc Fall Conference*, Jacksons Mill

International Master Gardener Conference 2011



Join us October 11-14 in Charleston, W.Va.

West Virginia University Extension Service and the West Virginia Master Gardener Association invite you to join us at the 2011 International Master Gardener Conference, October 11 -14 in Charleston, West Virginia.



Come and join us in sharing gardening information, history and Appalachian culture. The International Master Gardener Conference will be held at the Charleston Convention Center October 11-14, 2011 when fall brings cool nights and colorful mountain scenery. The event will provide opportunities to learn gardening techniques that will help increase biodiversity, control exotic weeds, make the most of native plants in the landscape and improve gardening methods. Pre and post tours will help you discover the splendor of the Appalachian Mountains and the beauty and history of West Virginia. Historic downtown, hotels, restaurants, and our regional shopping mall are within an afternoon stroll. Please come early and stay late to experience our local hospitality and to enjoy fall foliage, festivals and fairs.

Color it Green in a Wild & Wonderful Way



The Wild and Wonderful State of West Virginia beckons you to its capital city for the 2011 International Master Gardener Conference. Charleston, known in song and lore for its stunning scenery and recreation abundance, has become a regional center for all phases of gardening, landscaping and the associated arts. Centrally situated and crossed by interstates for easy access by auto, plane and rail, Charleston is beautifully banked by an expansive river running through it. Blessed by careful planning, nationally praised restoration and preservation, it presents a variety of historic areas, modern centers for the graphic and performing arts, unique shopping and a devotion to gardens, gardening and gardeners.

Hosted by West Virginia University Extension Service the West Virginia Master Gardener Association, the conference will feature a variety of presentations for every level of the soil yielding arts from the study of plant materials to the challenges of sustainability. Every facet of growing mediums, combat techniques against invading species, rapacious pests and new and exciting plants will be discussed. Whatever your interest in cultivated flora, there is bound to be a venue. While the array of lectures and workshops will offer something for every interest, our famously safe home offers a rich mixture of activities for all visitors.

Please come for a time and a place you'll not forget.

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For more information about the 2011 International Master Gardener Conference, please go to <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/>. To register, go to <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/registration>.



Raised beds are a gardener's dream come true: From weeding to harvesting, in cool climates and waterlogged soils, raised beds remedy a host of problems. Growing in raised beds means you don't have to bend over as much, saving on your back. The soil warms faster in spring and drains faster in wet weather. What's not to love? So here's how to make your own raised bed:

Step 1: Mark it Off

Start by determining how big you want your raised bed to be. If you're not sure, start with a 4x4-foot square, a distance most people can reach the middle from both sides of. Then rake and level the ground so that your raised bed will lie flat.



Step 2: Create Your Walls

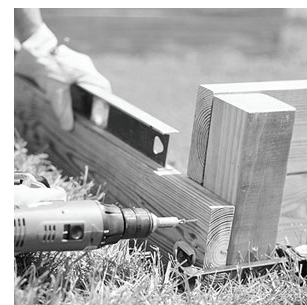
Start with four, 1-foot-long 4x4s for the corner posts; eight 4-foot-long 2x6s for the side rails; and four 2-foot-long 2x2s for the center stakes.

Position your 4x4s on each corner of your square. Then pick a wall to start with and screw your first 2x6 to connect the corners. Stack a second 2x6 on top of the first. The ends of the 2x6 boards should be even with the sides of the post. Use an angle-square to make sure the rails and posts are lined up at right angles.



Step 3: Connect the Walls

Stand the sidewalls upright and opposite each other, with the posts on the outside. Screw the two side rails to the posts to form the other walls of the raised bed. Again, the ends of the rails should be even with the sides of the posts.



Step 4: Square it Up

Measure diagonally both directions across the planter bed to make sure the frame is square. Adjust the raised bed until both diagonals are equal in length.



Step 5: Make it Sturdy

Take a 2x2 stake and place it at the middle point of one of the outside walls. Then dig or pound it into the ground so the top of stake is level with the top of the side rails. Fasten the stake to the side rails with deck screws. Repeat with each of the remaining three walls.



Step 6: Fill it with Soil

Once you've built your raised bed, fill it with topsoil. If you wish, amend the soil with lots of organic matter, such as compost or peat moss. Then water it well and you're ready to plant.

