

March 2009

Dear Friend,

Spring is closing in on us in spite of recent floods, snow, sleet, and cold temperatures. For the gardener this is a time of torture as seed and plant catalogs arrive and tempt one to plant far too early. However, there are many gardening chores which can be done while waiting for the soil to warm. Soil testing, cleaning, sharpening, and oiling tools and equipment and many other jobs can be done while the weather is still cool and damp. There are also some great gardening shows and programs planned. I hope you will find something of interest in this letter. It isn't all about gardening so be sure to look over the entire letter.

### **Everything Garden Expo**

March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> the Expo will be held at the Mississippi Horse Park in Starkville, MS. The schedule is as follows: Saturday, March 7 – 8:45 Lawns with Dr. Wayne Wells; 10:00 Growing and Using Herbs with Dr. Lelia Kelly; 11:15 New Plants with Norman Winter; 1:00 Garden Nation: Beautiful Ideas and Smart Examples “To Do” by Garden Mama – Nellie Neal; 2:15 Roses by Rosarian Jim Mills; 3:30 Shade Gardening with Dr. Milo Burnham; and at 4:30 Container Gardening with Jeff Fulton, will wrap up the day.

On Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> programs will begin at noon with Vegetable Gardening; at 1:15 Felder Rushing, The Gestalt Gardener followed at 2:45 by Professor Sadik Artunc on Landscape Architecture.

There is a \$5.00 fee to get in each day. The Horse Park is located on Poor House Rd., off South Montgomery St. in Starkville. (South Montgomery is just east of Captain D's.)

### **Lee County Master Gardener Program**

On March 10 at 6:00 p.m. there will be a program in the Lee County Extension Office on, “Building a Woodland Wildflower Garden. The program will last about an hour, with question and answer time at the end. For more information call the Lee County Extension Office at 841-9000.

### **Local Classes for the Gardener**

Beginning March 31 we will be conducting lessons on gardening once a week for 5 weeks. Classes will begin at 5:30 on Tuesdays and last for about 1 hour. The sessions were originally planned for those wanting to grow produce to sell. However, the information will be valuable to the gardener who plans to use everything grown. The schedule of topics is as follows: March 31 – Preparations for the Spring Garden – Site Selection, soil testing, etc.

April 7 – Choosing Plants and Seeds (What do I plant?)

April 14 – Organic or Not? Pros and Cons

April 21 – Planting and Feeding

May 5 – Harvesting, Transporting, and Marketing your crop

You may register to attend all classes or select the ones you wish to attend. Registration is needed one week prior to the class(es) you plan to attend. Call 494-5371 and tell the person who answers that you want to register for the Clay County Gardening Classes. Classes are free and open to anyone who wishes to attend, regardless of where they may live.



## **All About Tomatoes – April 2**

At noon, on April 2, Dr. Rick Snyder, Vegetable Specialist, MSU – Extension Service, will be presenting a Tomato program. This is the ideal opportunity to get all your tomato questions answered. Come to the Clay County Extension Office and enjoy this noontime program.

## **Now for some Non-Gardening Programs...**

### **Clay County Wildlife Tasting Buffet – March 9<sup>th</sup>**

There will be a Wildlife Tasting Buffet followed by a program on Wild Turkeys given by Jim Miller, MSU-ES Wildlife and Fisheries Department. If you wish to enter a dish in the Fin-Feather-Fur-Deer-Wild Hog-or youth age 6 to 18 category, contact Reid Nevins, Extension Agent at 494-5371 for details. Admission to the event will be a wild game dish, dessert, or side dish plus \$1.00 or \$3.00 per person if you do not want to enter a dish for judging. There will be door prizes and prizes for category winners. The event will be held at the West Point Parks and Recreation Building. Judging is at 6:30 with tasting and program to follow.

### **eBay – March 19**

At noon on March 19, Mariah Smith, Instructor, MSU-ES Computer Applications and Services, will present a program on eBay. eBay is one of the top ten websites in the world. Learn how to navigate the eBay website, evaluate items and sellers, learn how to buy items and avoid scams. Please call 494-5371 to register for the eBay program. The program will be seen by video in the Clay County Extension Office, 218 West Broad Street.

### **Demo Day in Pontotoc County – March 25**

The Pontotoc Homemaker Clubs will be presenting, Demo Day on March 25 from 9:00 until noon in the G.W. Gilliam Building, Center Ridge Drive, Pontotoc, MS. Free demonstrations will be given on: Chicken Scratch, Crochet, Knitting, Rings made from Crystal Beads, Traveling Pin Cushion, and Wool Felting. Call 662-489-3910 if you desire more information.

### **Always Green – April 16**

Floral Designer, Lynette McDougald, will be presenting a video program at noon, April 16<sup>th</sup> on using design and plant materials available right outside your door. There will also be tips on organic mechanics to composting. This will be a great program for gardeners and non-gardeners. Please call 4945371 to register for “Always Green”.

Sincerely,

Donna Cliett, MSU-ES  
Clay County Director

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Individuals who require special accommodations to participate should contact the Extension Office to make their request known prior to any programs.