



Marion County Master Gardeners held their quarterly meeting on March 3, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Marion County Extension Office.

Triva Reimer gave a presentation on Basil and the “Slow Food Movement”. Her talk was fun and informative. She motivated me to try experimenting with different varieties of basil this summer. There are an estimated 50 – 150 species of basil with varying taste and fragrances.

I had really never heard of the “Slow Food Movement” and I’m a nurse so what slow food movement means to me is way off course of what it really is. Nurses develop a rather off-color sense of humor over time. It’s a self-preservation thing!

Any way I learned the real meaning of “Slow Food Movement” is a return to the family supper or dinner table where everyone sits down together and enjoys good food, not fast food, or carry out, or boxed or pre-fab food. I’m hoping that preparation of the meal is a shared experience as well with everyone sharing the prep-work and the clean up.

Triva also talked about disappearing foods due to America’s changing life styles. How many people do you know, that actually grow a vegetable garden these days? I know I gave it up several years ago. Working full-time away from home robs the enjoyment of spending time in the vegetable garden and of home preservation of foods. I used to really get off on canning and freezing vegetables and fruits in my other life. Life before the kids grew up. Not much taste better than home canned whole tomatoes in January or home-canned applesauce or fresh frozen peaches. So we all loved Triva’s talk and learned new stuff too.

Other items of interest –

- #1 Our gourd contest will become reality in June at our next meeting.
- #2 Discussion of the club format. No changes were advised.
- #3 Upcoming Events were discussed.
- #4 The campground flowerbeds were kept on as volunteer projects.
- #5 Information about the Master Gardener Conference in WI in July was handed out.
- #6 Habitat for Humanity projects were discussed
- #7 Discussion was held about the Knoxville Federated Garden Club’s “Garden Gala” – information was handed out.

#8 Information about “Trudi’s Garden” presentation in Waukee, IA on March 29th was handed out.

#9 It was decided to keep both Master Gardener flower beds at the Bessie Spaur Butterfly Garden as a volunteer project in 2008.

#10 Summer Garden tours will be at Mary Dee Dykstra’s, Nila Landsperger’s and Marlys Anderson’s gardens.

#11 Everyone was invited to join Knoxville Federated Garden Club.

#12 Reports were given on our 2007 Senior Center projects.

#13 The Junior Master Gardener program was talked about and up coming Master Gardener courses were announced. Jr MG’s meet March 4, April 1, May 6, & June 3. If you want to take part – let Erin know.

#14 Seeds from Hy-Vee were available to take home and grow.

Next meeting – June 2 at 7pm

- MM