It's Plant Sale Time!

Lee Royer, Special to News Post

Gardeners rejoice! The time to plant is fast approaching. Soon plants will be available in all the usual places: nurseries, groceries, farm, big box, and hardware stores. You all know where to find them. I want to tell you about other options. Plant sales are the logical choice for fund raising by garden clubs, horticultural societies, arboretums, agricultural groups and schools with horticulture programs. Plant exchanges are a little different. You pot up your extra plants and swap them for new ones. (If you take this route, be sure to pot up a few weeks in advance so you know they will grow well for the new owner.) Festivals are given by those partial to a particular plant or plant group and usually offer speakers and assorted activities. Here are some Frederick County Master Gardener favorites.

Frederick County Master Gardner Plant Sale
Date: Saturday, April 25, 2009, rain or shine
Time: 8:00 a.m. to Noon.
Location: 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick
Description: Great prices on hundreds of plants: Perennials, hanging baskets, annuals, herbs, locally grown organic heirloom vegetables, hard-to-find native plants. Also a yard sale of garden assorted garden accessories, tools, and books. Make it and take it crafts for kids. *More info:* (301) 600-1596

Audubon Society of Central Maryland Plant Sale, Frederick County
Date: Saturday, April 25, 2009, rain or shine
Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary, 13030 Old Annapolis Road, Mt. Airy, MD.
Description: A unique selection of fresh, healthy plant stock that not only comes from local suppliers, but is natively suited to weather and soil conditions unique to our area. *More info* www.centralmdaudubon.org

11th Annual Pennsylvania Herb Festival
Date: April 17th & 18th, 2009
Time: Friday Noon to 7 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: York Expo Center, 334 Carlisle Avenue, York, PA
Description: Dedicated to educating the public about growing and using herbs. Features speakers, workshops, numerous vendors of plants, herbal crafts, products for the gardener, cook and crafter.
More info: http://www.paherbfest.com/

Emmitsburg Branch Library 7th Annual Plant Exchange
Date: Saturday, May 9, 2009, rain or shine
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Location: 300 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD
Description: Too many daylilies, tomato plants, or oregano? Exchange the excess plants you have for plants you want at one of our most popular events!
More info: (301) 600-6329

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Linganore High School (at Oakdale) Plant Sale
Dates and Times: Saturday April 25 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sunday April 26 - 9 a.m. to Noon; Saturday May 2 - 9 a.m. to Noon; Sunday May 3 - Noon to 4 p.m.
Location: 5850 Eaglehead Drive, Ijamsville
Description: Plants grown by the horticulture students include flowers, vegetable plants and herbs. Beautiful hanging baskets provided by the Green Valley Nursery. More info Mr. Hawthorne or Mrs. Beachy 240-566-9400

Frederick High School Plant Sale
Date: April 15 - end of May
Time: 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Location: 650 Carroll Pkwy
Frederick. School greenhouse.
Description: Veggies, perennials, annuals, hanging baskets, and planters
More info: Mr. Main 240-236-7158

Catoctin High School FFA/Agriculture Program
Spring Bedding Plant Sale
Date: April 18 to May 15 (except spring break May 1-9)
Time: Saturdays 8 a.m. to Noon; weekdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. during school hours.
Location: 14745 Sabillasville Road, Thurmont. Greenhouses near the ag parking area through the back gates by the baseball field.
Description: Assorted plants to choose or use advance order form. *More info:* 240-236-8192 or 240-236-8115, leave message for Ms. Ogg or Mr. Beavan. E-mail diane.ogg@fcps.org

Adkins Arboretum Spring Plant Sale and Walk
Date: Saturday, May 9, 2009
Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: 12610 Eveland Road, Ridgely, MD
Description: Features a wide range of trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennial herbaceous plants native to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Used gardening and nature-themed books and magazines. Members receive a 10% discount on plants. Arboretum has a bookstore. *More info:* http://www.adkinsarboretum.org/

Pennsylvania Lavender Festival
Date: June 19-21, 2009, rain or shine
Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
Location: Willow Pond Farm, Fairfield, PA
Description: Only such event in the eastern U.S. Three acres of blooming lavender. This year, keynote speaker will be David Hirsch, of Moosewood Restaurant. Cut your own lavender or start your own lavender bed by purchasing some of the 100 certified organic varieties. Attend lectures and workshops by internationally acclaimed experts, shop at the "Lavender Tent", and at juried outside vendors. *More info:* http://www.palavenderfestival.com/

For more information about horticulture or the Master Gardener Program in Frederick County, call the Frederick County Office of the Maryland Cooperative Extension, (301) 600-1596, or visit http://www.frederick.umd.edu/. Our mission is to educate Maryland residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities.