Annual Perennial Plant Sale Fund Raiser

The annual perennial plant sale is the primary fund raiser for our organization (net of $45,000-55,000 per year). It is held every May on the third Saturday of the month. A private pre-sale for active (dues paid) MGV's is held Friday evening. If any of the approximately 15,000 plants remain, additional sales are made on the following Monday morning, and Garden Project Chairs may select plants for their project gardens. Any plants left after that are usually donated to Habitat for Humanity.

For the sale to be successful, we need hundreds of MG volunteers, working hundreds of hours over several months.

Work for the 2018 sale has already begun. How can you help?

- Advertise the sale to everyone you know. Like Us on Facebook (facebook.com/sewmgplantsale). Hand out our sale information bookmarks to your co-workers, employees, customers, friends, family members, businesses, etc.

- Donate perennial plants from your, a neighbor's, a friend's, or a relative's garden. **This is vital to our success.** There are suggested (not all inclusive) lists of plants we accept and don't accept on the MGV site – www.fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/perennial-plant-sale.

- Host a "dig" in the fall. If you have a number of plants to donate, a group of "DIGGERS" will come to your garden and harvest plants. Your garden must be checked for jumping worms in the summer prior to hosting a dig. Contact Patty Witt to discuss a possible dig. (pattywitt8@gmail.com).

- Host a "POT-A-THON" (PAT). If you have a significant number of plants, we will bring an entire team to dig, divide, pot, label, and tray your tax deductible plant donation. It is not as hard as you may think for us to get hundreds of plants out of a yard. One plant clump can be divided into many smaller plants. We leave your yard in pre-dig shape. PAT hosts are responsible for caring for the potted plants until they are delivered to State Fair.

- Donate a special plant or garden item(s) for the pre-sale member silent auction.

Many types of volunteer work are available for the plant sale. Volunteer work includes but is not limited to:

- Supplies day at Carlins – load and transport supplies to donor Pot – A – Thon sites
- Storage unit and supplies day – prep the trailer and load equipment for Pot A Thons

- POT–A–THONS workers:
    1. Trailer drivers (Contact Larry Paplham at lpaplham@gmail.com)
    2. Diggers
    3. Plant dividers
    4. Potters
    5. Labelers
- Plant sale week
    1. Clean and prepare the plant sale site at state fair
    2. Haul plants from donor's homes to the fair grounds
    3. Quality control inspections of incoming plants
    4. Sort plants by their labeled botanical names and transport them to their alphabetical location on the grounds or their specialty area (also alphabetize and sort within their specific areas by color, variety, size, etc.)
    5. Spray paint pots to tag for prices
    6. Prepare food for workers – lunch and snacks served each full work day
    7. Water the plants
- Sale days
    1. Sales advisors/plant specialists
    2. Personal shoppers
    3. Talliers – requires counting and physically moving plants from sleds to boxes
    4. Cashiers
    5. Plant sitters
    6. Plant health advisors
    7. Sled and water runners
    8. Gate check out/receipts
    9. Crowd control
- Post sale clean up day
    1. Continue with sales
    2. Move leftover plants for donations
    3. Clean site
    4. Haul trailers and supplies back to storage

If you have questions, plants to donate, silent auction items, or special talents/skills to share, feel free to contact me at dianet1@execpc.com. Watch for emails in January announcing our first sale organizational meeting. Work will begin in early April (weather dependent). Pot A Thons generally begin around mid April.

Plant Sale Committee Personnel

Pat Adrian – communications to the membership regarding sale (dig team)

Bonnie Paplham – plant donation recruiting, inventory records and labeling (dig team)

Larry Paplham – plants and supplies transport, trailer scheduling

Sue Ratkowski – grounds layout design (dig team/jumping worms inspections)

Bill Shaffer – contracts, supplies ordering, storage units

Diane Thieme – committee coordinator, volunteer recruitment/meetings, budget, sales room/ money, plant purchasing, printing, literature and handouts, food (dig team/jumping worms inspections)

Patty Witt – dig scheduling, Pot A Thon scheduling, donor plant selections (dig team/jumping worms inspections)

Mary Redlinger – silent auction