



April 2010



HORTICULTURE

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History of Earth Day

<http://www.earthday.net/>

Earth Day -- April 22 -- each year marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

Among other things, 1970 in the United States brought with it the Kent State shootings, the advent of fiber optics, "Bridge Over Troubled Water," Apollo 13, the Beatles' last album, the death of Jimi Hendrix, the birth of Mariah Carey, and the melt-down of fuel rods in the Savannah River nuclear plant near Aiken, South Carolina -- an incident not acknowledged for 18 years.



Participant in Earth Day, 1970.
Photo: EPA History Office

It was into such a world that the very first Earth Day was born.

Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, proposed the first nationwide environmental

protest "to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda." "It was a gamble," he recalls, "but it worked."

At the time, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V-8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of

prosperity. Environment was a word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news.

Earth Day 1970 turned that all around.

On April 22, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment. Denis Hayes, the national coordinator, and his youthful staff organized massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.



Denis Hayes - Honorary Chair, Earth Day Network
Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats,

rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species acts.

Sen. Nelson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom -- the highest honor given to civilians in the United States -- for his role as Earth Day founder.

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another big campaign. This time, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting the status of environmental

History of Earth Day (Continued from Page 2)

issues on to the world stage. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

As the millennium approached, Hayes agreed to spearhead another campaign, this time focused on global warming and a push for clean energy. Earth Day 2000 combined the big-picture feistiness of the first Earth Day with the international grassroots activism of Earth Day 1990. For 2000, Earth Day had the Internet to help link activists around the world. By the time April 22 rolled around, 5,000 environmental groups around the world were on board, reaching out to hundreds of millions of people in a record 184 countries. Events varied: A talking drum chain traveled from village to village in Gabon, Africa, for example, while hundreds of thousands of people gathered on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., USA.

Earth Day 2000 sent the message loud and clear that citizens the world 'round wanted quick and decisive action on clean energy.



EPA Administrator William K. Reilly with former Senator Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day 1990. Photo: EPA History Office

Now, the fight for a clean environment continues. We invite you to be a part of this history and a part of Earth Day. Discover energy you didn't even know you had. Feel it rumble through the grass roots under your feet and the technology at your fingertips.

Channel it into building a clean, healthy, diverse world for generations to come.

For more information on the history of Earth Day and Senator Gaylord Nelson, visit:

www.nelsonearthday.net 



earth day
2010

Going Green

Developed by Ashley Osborne, Extension Associate for Environmental and Natural Resource Issues. 2009.

Thinking of going green? In today's society "green" is used to describe everything from products to communities to blogs. But what does "green" really mean? "Green" equates environmental responsibility. Routine decisions such as which household cleaner to purchase or when to water the garden can affect our global community. Understanding how these daily choices can impact our environment is key to conserving and preserving our natural resources, and ensuring a healthy environment for present and future generations.

Preserving our Earth. Protecting our natural resources. These are huge undertakings. Can the average person make a difference? The answer is YES! You can make a difference!

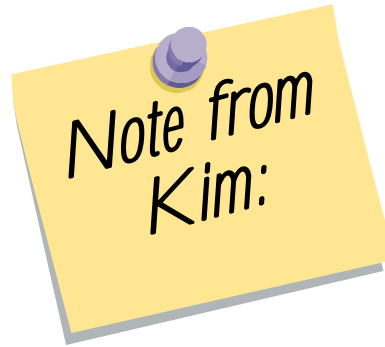
Consider the tips below. Think about your daily routine. Which of these suggestions pertain to you?

- ⇒ Reduce waste. Purchase items that use less packaging. Buy items that you use frequently in bulk, and look for items that are sold in reusable or recycled containers.
- ⇒ Reuse items. Use travel mugs versus disposable coffee cups, repair broken items whenever possible, and donate materials you no longer want to a local charity or church organization.
- ⇒ Recycle items such as aluminum cans, plastic bottles, glass jars, newspaper, junk mail, and cardboard. Contact your County Solid Waste Coordinator for information on recycling programs in your community or visit www.waste.ky.gov/recycling/.
- ⇒ Walk, bike, or carpool to work or school when possible.
- ⇒ Use reusable bags when shopping. Many stores offer discounts for bringing your own bag. According to Reuseable-bags.com approximately 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide each year.
- ⇒ Think local. Did you know that, on average, produce in the U.S. travels 1300-

2000 miles from farm to table? By buying fruits, vegetables, meats, and other products from local producers you can support local agriculture and conserve resources, such as energy. For information on local Kentucky producers and products visit www.kyagr.com/kyproud.

- ⇒ Turn off lights and appliances when not in use to save energy.
- ⇒ Install a rain barrel to collect rainwater to use on your lawn or garden.
- ⇒ Compost kitchen scraps and yard waste. Use compost as an alternative to purchasing fertilizers.
- ⇒ If you planned to be parked for longer than 10 seconds, turn off your engine. Vehicle idling wastes gas and money, and causes increased vehicle emissions.

By making a few small changes in your day-to-day activities you can do your part in caring for our Earth. For more information on going green contact your local Extension office or visit www.ca.uky.edu/gogreen.



Spring has sprung! I am writing this on a near-record setting day of temperatures in the mid -80s! Remember that in Central Ky our frost-free date is on Mother's Day—almost a month

away, so don't get too anxious and plant tender annuals and vegetables or move your houseplants out just yet.

This year is the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. What are you doing to celebrate our Planet? Plant a tree, pick up some litter, turn off some not needed lights, get rid of an invasive plant in your landscape... the list is endless!

The Franklin County Farmers Market will be opening on the 24th of April under the Pavilion at River View Park in downtown Frankfort. Stop by from 7am to noon and say "Hello!" to all our farmer friends who provide us with great, locally grown and produced veggies, meats, eggs, soaps, spreads, breads and other great items! (just don't ask for tomatoes and corn yet... it isn't time!).

It is time to finally get growing and get outside and enjoy the wonderful spring weather.

Happy Gardening!

Kim Cowherd

CEA for Horticulture
kim.cowherd@uky.edu

April 2009 ~ Earth Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
see blue. go green.			1 Take the Earth Day Pledge. Ask your county agent for details.	2 Run multiple errands at once to save gas.	3 Think local when preparing snacks and meals.	4
5	6 Turn off lights and appliances when not in use.	7 Wash clothes in cold water.	8	9	10 Dry clothes outdoors when possible.	11 Use reusable plates, cups, mugs, and utensils.
← April 12—18 National Environmental Education Week →						
19 Turn the TV off and go outside for a walk!	20	Earth Day		23 Arbor Day	24	25 Plant a tree.
← April 20—26 TV Turnoff Week →						
26 Pay bills electronically.	27 Repair, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle	28 Compost kitchen scraps and yard waste.	29 Install a rain barrel.	30 Carpool to work or school.		

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

Check out the latest info on what is happening at the Cooperative Extension Office. Become a fan and receive up-to-the-minute information on upcoming activities, meetings, and special events. Fans are welcome to let us know what your interests and needs are for the future. Look for us on Facebook—Franklin County Cooperative Extension. **BECOME A FAN!**



Here is something fun for you to do to get ready for gardening! You won't plant these outside until the middle of May. Here are a link to more fun activities! <http://www.global-garden.com.au/gardenkids.htm>

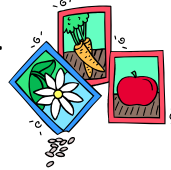
Making Mini-Hothouses

Do you like tomatoes? They're great for making lots of foods kids like, such as pizza, salsa and tomato sauce. Tomato seeds need warmth and moisture to germinate. To get a head start, you can plant your tomato seeds in little mini hothouses in early spring and



then transplant them into the garden when the weather is a bit warmer. Home grown tomatoes taste SO good!!

You will need: some 12cm (about 4 ½ inch) pots; the same number of 2 liter soft drink bottles; potting mix; tomato (or other vegetable or flower) seeds.



What to Do:

1. With an adult's help, using a pair of heavy duty or kitchen scissors cut the top off of the 2 liter bottle. Cut where the bottle begins to slope or curve.
2. Almost fill the pots with damp, bagged potting mix. (Use your gardening gloves when handling potting mix.) Do not use soil from your yard.
3. Plant a couple of seeds in each pot. Plant them about a quarter of an inch deep. The seed package should tell you how deeply to plant. Water gently and well.
4. Turn the bottom pieces of the soft-drink bottles upside down over the top of the pots. Your seeds and seedlings will now have their own little greenhouses. 🌱



BUG BYTES

Boxwood Leafminers

By Lee Townsend

Boxwood leafminers belong to a group of insects, mostly flies or caterpillars, that feed and develop within plant leaves. Depending on the species, they may produce snake-like, gradually widening tunnels or larger blotch mines. Mined leaves usually turn yellow and may drop prematurely but the leaf drop usually doesn't have a significant impact on otherwise healthy plants.

Natural enemies can be effective in managing infestations. If this insect has been a problem, application of insecticides such as carbaryl (Sevin), cyfluthrin (Bayer Multi-Insect Killer Concentrate, or permethrin (Bonide Borer Miner Killer, and others) about the time of *Weigela* bloom should provide preventive control. Products containing acephate (Orthene and others) can give some control if mines are developing.

Light area on underside of leaf is sign of boxwood leafminer activity.



Eastern Tent Caterpillars Feeding

By Lee Townsend

ETC eggs have been hatching and larval feeding is underway and will continue approximately till the end of April. Tents in the 3 inch size category were present in some Fayette Co wild cherry trees in early April. Initially, tents are scattered along limbs. As larvae grow, they will move back to main trunk branches and fewer larger nests will be present. Begin to

check wild cherry trees along pastures fence lines for small tents and look regularly through the month of April for these tell-tale signs.



Lawn Bees Pose Little Threat

By Lee Townsend

Several species of ground bee or burrowing bee can be found entering and leaving pencil-diameter holes in the soil during early spring. There may be a scattering of fine soil around the holes, which are entrances to their underground nests. These small, hairy bees generally select sandy or loamy soils where grass cover is thin. Females of some species may share entrances but dig separate tunnels, others develop individual tunnels. Below ground there are side branches and chambers for brood rearing. Bees provision the nests with pollen and nectar to feed their larvae. Over time, large communities can develop where soil conditions are favorable and flowers are abundant.

If practical, leave ground bees alone, they are valuable pollinators and their activity period is relatively short. Females can sting if handled but are not aggressive and do not defend their nest area like honey bees do. Nesting areas can be mowed at night when the bees are not active.

However, ground bees can pose a potential problem if someone is allergic to bee stings, or if children cannot be kept out of the area where bees are active. In these cases, individual entry holes can be treated with Sevin for some control.

Alternatives

1. Increase mowing height - that may make the area less attractive to them.
2. Use a lawn sprinkler to keep soil in the nesting area moist when bees first become active. This may encourage them to move to another site.
3. Over-seeding to establish a thicker turf may discourage the bees from living in the area.



Ground bee species, note heavy covering of yellow "hairs" that collect pollen.



Calendar of Things To Do!

There are so many places to go and things to do in the spring and summer! Choose just one this month and get outdoors with your family and friends!

For Franlin County Extension Calendar, log on to: <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/franklin/UpcomingEvents> or call the Extension Office

Salato Wildlife Education Center Events; Contact Kristy Stroud, Kristy.Stroud@ky.gov or 800-858-1549. For full calendar log on to: <http://fw.ky.gov/>

- ⇒ [Nocturnal Neighbors Night Hike](#) 4/17/10
Spring is emerging, carrying with it the nightly sounds of our nocturnal neighbors. Join us for a guided night hike to listen for tree frogs, owls and other nightly creatures.
- ⇒ [Pine Cone Bird Feeders](#) 4/20/10
Peanut butter, kids and bird seed seem to go hand in hand. Now kids can create their own birdfeeder during this program. We provide everything you need to take home a crafty bird treat in a neat package! All ages welcome!
- ⇒ [Free Trees for Earth Day](#) 4/22/10
Today we will give away free trees while supplies last! Plant a tree with your family, church or school to give back to Mother Nature.
- ⇒ [A Wildflower Hike](#) 4/24/10
Take the time to enjoy a hike on the primitive Pea Ridge trail with Salato staff as we show you the blooming beauties on the forest floor. Kentucky is home to more than 2,000 wildflower species that thrive in different geographic regions of our state.
- ⇒ [Early Morning Bird Hike](#) 4/24/10
Did you know that different birds sing their song at different times in the day? Be an early bird and take a guided morning hike to identify birds by their sweet songs. We'll provide all necessary equipment to help you identify birds of Kentucky. Ages adults, limit 15

Kentucky State Nature Preserves Events:

April 17, 2010. Wildflower Hike with Brian Yahn at Floracliff SNP (Fayette County) at 10 a.m. EDT. Join KSNPC Ecologist Brian Yahn as he leads this wildflower hike. Registration is required for all events and programs are limited to 15 participants. All events are \$4 per person or \$10 per family unless otherwise noted. For more information or to register contact Preserve Manager Beverly James at 859-351-7770 or 859-351-or e-mail floracliff@aol.com. Floracliff official website at <http://www.floracliff.org/>.

April 17, 2010. The Frankfort Audubon Chapter's Spring Wildflower Walk led by KSNPC Botanist Deborah White at 2 p.m. EDT on Stosberg Farm in Franklin County. The public is invited for this free, easy walk to see Dutchman's britches, trout lily, trillium, blood root, Virginia bluebells, may apple, twin leaf, spring beauty and more. If wet weather, contact Scott Hankla at 502-223-4179 or 502-223-4179 to confirm hike.

April 23-25, 2010. Wildflower Weekend at Natural Bridge SPNP (Powell County) at 8:30 a.m. EDT. Enjoy the hundreds of native plant species around the Natural Bridge area this weekend with other botanists, gardeners and nature lovers.

CLYDE E. BUCKLEY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY & AUDUBON CENTER – 2010 EVENT SCHEDULE*

Address: 1305 Germany Road (Millville), Frankfort, KY 40601-8257; Tel/Fax: 859-873-5711 - Email: twilliams@audubon.org - Internet: www.audubon.org

Buckley's Birdathon - Saturday, May 8 at 7:00 A.M. (Free admissions.) As part of our fundraising efforts we've obtained pledges for the number of bird species we'll encounter today. Bring your binoculars.

The Arboretum (Lexington) Events: Log on to http://www.ca.uky.edu/arboretum/cal_events.php or call 859-257-6955 or 859-257-6955 or dmbast0@uky.edu

web links

<http://www.uvm.edu/~pass/perry/> Dr. Leonard Perry's Web pages for on-line perennial and related horticultural information, from the University of Vermont Extension Service

<http://www.chicagobotanic.org/therapy/resources> Horticultural Therapy and accessible garden design by the Chicago Botanic Garden

<http://utgardens.tennessee.edu/ohld220/index.html> On-line woody plant ID from the University of Tennessee Extension Service

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/deerresistance/> A list of landscape plants rated according to their resistance to deer damage from Rutgers Cooperative Extension

<http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/watertaskforce/water%20ripples%20gameshow%20quiz/index.html> Water Ripples Game Quiz- Get prepared for Water Awareness Month (MAY)

April To Do List!

Sandra Mason

University of Illinois Horticulture Extension

Flowers

- Begin planting and dividing most perennials except bearded iris and peony. Iris are divided in August. Peonies are divided in September.
- Finish pulling back mulch from around perennials and roses.



- Prune summer and fall blooming clematis.
- Spray emerging peonies with fungicide if diseases such as botrytis have been a problem in the past.
- Plant bare root plants before they leaf

out. Be sure to soak plants in warm water for at least 2 hours before planting.

- Ornamental and native grasses should be cut down within a few inches of the ground before growth starts.
- Houseplants and overwintering tropicals can be trimmed, repotted and fertilized. Wait until after May 10 to place outside.

Late April prune sage, butterfly bush, Russian sage and *Caryopteris* down to about 8 inches to stimulate growth. Wait until lavender shows new growth before pruning off winter-killed stems.

Lawn

- Mow lawn to 2 inches removing no more than 1/3 of leaf blade at any one mowing.
- If appropriate, apply preemergent crabgrass control to areas with past history of annual grassy weeds when the soil temperatures reach 50 degrees F for at least three consecutive days (generally late April). Do not reseed turf at the same time unless siduron is used as the herbicide. Use postemergence herbicides for actively



growing broadleaf weeds as necessary. Consider spot treatment rather than complete lawn application. Read and follow all label directions.

Trees/Shrubs

- Continue planting trees and shrubs.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia soon after bloom. Use renewal pruning by removing oldest stems at soil level.
- Examine trees and shrubs for winter injury. Prune out and remove all dead and diseased wood.
- Scout for spider mite damage on spruce by shaking leaves over white paper. Mites will look like period marks with legs.



Begin fungicide treatments for apple scab on crabapples if it has been a problem in the past. Consider replacing trees with disease resistant cultivars.

Vegetables

- Add compost to garden.
 - If needed, till garden when soil permits. Squeeze a handful of soil. It should crumble apart easily. Do not work when soil is too wet.
 - Plant seeds of frost tolerant plants such as spinach, lettuce, carrot, beet, chard, parsnip and radish.
 - Plant or divide rhubarb.
- Plant asparagus crowns.



Fruits

- Plant strawberries. Pinch off first year flowers to encourage strong root systems.
- Plant fruit trees, grapes and brambles such as raspberry and blackberry.

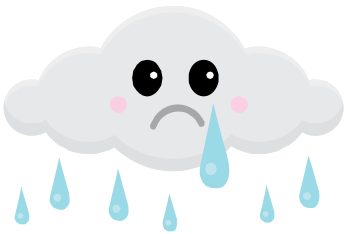
UK Ag Weather Report

<http://www.wqwx.ca.uky.edu/>

Tom Priddy, UK Meteorologist

Kentucky Climate Summary for March 2010
Near Normal Temperature and Below Normal
Precipitation

The Commonwealth experienced another dry month, making this March the 5th month in a row with below normal precipitation. The Bluegrass and Central climate divisions were the driest, with the Western division only slightly below normal.



This puts most of the Bluegrass division and parts of the Central division, 36% of the state, in the abnormally dry category for drought.

In fact many locations around the state are 3 to 6 inches below normal since January 1st. Temperatures for the month started off cool, but quickly warmed up for a near normal March. However, day time highs near the end of the month certainly ended March on a warm note.

Temperatures for the period averaged 46 degrees across the state which was 0 degrees from normal. High temperatures averaged from 57 in the West to 56 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from 3 degrees below normal in the West to 2 degrees above normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 38 degrees in the West to 36 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from 3 degrees above normal in the West to 3 degrees above normal in the East.

Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 2.71 inches statewide which was 1.85 inches below normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 3.78 inches, Central 2.42 inches, Bluegrass 1.99 inches and East 2.58 inches, which was 0.90, 2.45, 2.36 and 1.82 inches respectively below normal. By station, precipitation totals ranged from a low of 1.05 inches at Spindletop to a high of 4.24 inches at Paducah. 🌱

SUMMER TIPS FOR THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Charlie Nardozi, Senior Horticulturist
National Gardening Association

Mulching, pest control, and proper harvest are some of the tips for this season's vegetable garden.

There's evidence that fruiting of tomatoes and peppers is improved by applying Epsom salts, which contains sulfur and magnesium. Apply one tablespoon of granules around each transplant, or spray a solution of one tablespoon Epsom salts per gallon of water at transplanting, first flowering, and fruit set. You can find it at drug and grocery stores.

Reduce the weeds in walkways in your garden by covering the soil with some type of mulch. Some people like to use carpet scraps placed upside-down. Several sheets of moistened newspaper topped with hay or straw works very well, especially if you move your planting areas around a bit from year to year. Landscape fabric topped with wood chips or gravel is a good choice if the walkways are permanent. Try to avoid the habit of tilling to remove weeds because the process brings up weed seeds from deeper in the soil and exposes them to the light they need to grow.



Indeterminate tomato plants, such as 'Better Boy', will produce many suckers. A sucker is a new shoot that starts where a branch connects with the main trunk. Removing suckers will decrease the

number of fruits produced, but the remaining tomatoes will be larger and will ripen sooner.

Set your tomato supports in place before plants get too large. Smaller determinate (bushy) varieties can be supported with small cages, but larger indeterminate (vining) varieties need large cages or tall stakes. Secure cages with stakes so they don't topple.

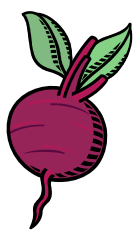
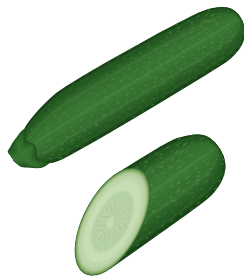
Blossom end rot shows up as dark sunken

spots on the blossom, or non-stem, end of tomatoes, peppers, and squash. It's caused by a calcium imbalance in the plant. The soil may have adequate calcium, but the plant isn't able to take up enough to supply the rapidly developing fruit. To minimize the problem, keep soil evenly moist, apply a layer of mulch to conserve moisture, don't over-fertilize (especially avoid high-nitrogen fertilizer), and avoid damaging plant roots while cultivating.



Coffee grounds, diatomaceous earth, and even sharp gravel can deter slugs and snails. Spread any of these materials in a ring around individual plants. Wrap pots with copper tape to keep slugs from crawling up. Inspect foliage and squish or pick off any insects that have already passed the barriers.

Young cucumber, melon, and squash plants are easy prey for cucumber beetles. As the seedlings grow, these yellow-striped or spotted beetles emerge to feed on their foliage. The beetles also spread bacterial wilt disease. To control them in a small planting, suck them up with a portable vacuum cleaner or spray beneficial nematodes on the soil.



It's not too late to sow lettuce, beets, carrots, radishes, and other short-season crops for a late-summer harvest. Shade lettuce, if possible, during late afternoon to keep young plants cooler, or grow them next to larger plants that provide some shade. You'll need to water more often on these hot days than you did in spring and early summer. Mulch between rows to preserve moisture and block weed growth.



Harvest tomatoes, zucchini, beans, and other fruiting crops frequently to encourage continued production. Remove any fruits that have gone by unless you're in competition for the biggest zucchini! You don't want the plant to produce mature seeds because that will signal that it's time to

slow down fruit production.

Herbs are best harvested just as they are beginning to flower. That's when they have the highest concentration of essential oils -- and flavor -- in their leaves. Harvest entire branches back to within a few inches of the main stem to encourage new, bushy growth.

Begin harvesting onions when about half to three quarters of the leaves have died back. Then gently dig or pull the onions and store them in a



dry, shady place with good ventilation, such as an outdoor shed or barn, for 10 days to two weeks. After the onions have cured, put them in slatted crates or mesh bags and store them over winter indoors in a cellar with low humidity and temperatures between 33 and 45 degrees F.

When the daytime temperatures no longer rise above 65 degrees F in late summer and early fall, it's time to pick the green tomatoes. Wrap them individually in newspaper and let them ripen indoors, or try some fried. 🍷

Coming Soon

SPRING WILDFLOWER
WALKS
AT
COVE SPRING PARK

Sunday April 04	2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Sunday April 11	2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Sunday April 18	2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Sunday April 25	2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Watch this Space for other Upcoming Programs for 2010

Questions? 502-352-1333

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

QUOTES

“April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.”

- William Shakespeare

“In the spring I have counted one hundred and thirty-six different kinds of weather inside of four and twenty hours.”

- Mark Twain

“An optimist is the human personification of spring.”

- Susan J. Bissonette

“The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring.”

- Bern Williams