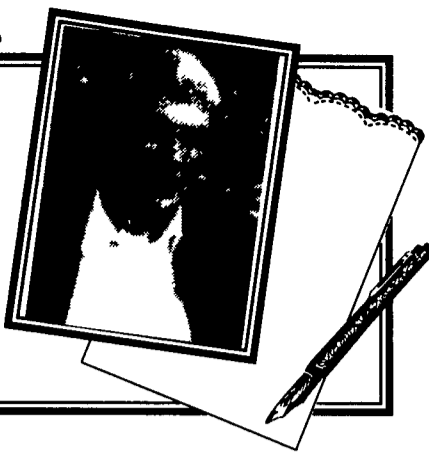


Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



The other week we attended our grandson's "Project Fair" at his elementary school. The children had weeks and weeks to prepare something to show.

The displays were quite varied. Some children showed cats, dogs, turtles, and snakes. Some grew plants under different conditions to show how they prospered. There were artificial volcanoes, a log cabin, historical costumes, and dinosaurs.

On a rainy night, we walked into the brightly-lit school filled with energetic children running everywhere. They presented a talent show in the auditorium which everyone enjoyed. It was an opportunity for several generations to interact and see what interests today's youth.

I'm sure that parents had a big hand in the projects even as we did years ago. Our six children were all very active in 4-H Clubs. The girls made suits and dresses. They also grew flowers and held cooking classes in my kitchen.

They were all in the dairy club and the community club. Their interests ranged from bees to geology and from veterinary science to raising pigs and vegetables.

The parents learned along with the children. Flowers must be picked the night before the show so that if some of them wilt they can be replaced. And, you do not allow beets to attain a nice size but rather pull them when they are small and tender.

Antique Apple Grafting Seminar

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)
— Participants in the annual "Antique Apple Grafting Seminar" held 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 21, (snow date, March 28) in the Visitor Center of Landis Valley Museum will be given hands-on instruction for grafting two apple trees. The seminar fee is \$20 which includes materials.

The "Antique Apple Grafting Seminar" is hosted by the Heirloom Seed Project of Landis Valley Museum and the Backyard Fruit Growers who work together to preserve historic varieties of fruit trees found in Pennsylvania German orchards.

The afternoon seminar will include a slide presentation featuring historic varieties of fruit, hands-on grafting experience.

It is important that all vegetables be uniform.

One child even challenged the judge and whipped out a book to prove he had identified a stone correctly. It was a learning experience as, after all of their work, sometimes they got blue ribbons or rosettes and other times they got none.

written instructions, two rootstocks, and a choice of two selections from over 100 antique and modern applewood varieties to graft.

This is a great way to begin a

new back yard orchard or add to an existing orchard. Call Landis Valley Museum at (717) 569-0401, ext. 202 today to pre-register.

Craft Show

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — The sixth annual Breath of Spring Craft Show is being held on Saturday, March 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Hunterdon County Extension center on Route 31 North in Flemington. Admission is \$1.

There will be hands-on crafts

for the children to make and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Also available will be a variety of spring plants, baked goods, and a lunch menu. This event benefits the NJ State 4-H Association.

For more information, call Louisa Cole (908)369-4184.

Tractor Safety Course Set

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — If you are between the ages of 14 and 16 and wish to work on a farm (other than your parents'), you are required to have a certificate showing that you completed a tractor safety course.

Penn State Cooperative Extension and Octorara High School's Vo-Ag Department jointly present the 1998 Tractor and Farm Machinery Safety

Course on Mondays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27, from 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Octorara High School, Atglen.

A tractor driving session will be scheduled on a Saturday as well. The registration fee is \$12 and is due no later than March 30.

This course is designed to give young people classroom and hands-on training in the safe operation of farm tractors and some farm machinery. This is also a good program for young adults already operating machinery because of the emphasis on safety.

Upon successful completion of this course, candidates receive a Department of Labor certificate certifying that the student has completed the course and has mastered certain safety and operational skills of farm machinery.

For registration information, contact the extension office at (610)696-3500

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