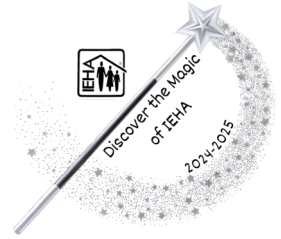




THE MESSENGER

Extra Edition #248 2025



February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Council Meeting	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Lions Schedule

February

19 Amici

26 Friendly Neighbors

March

5 Sunny Circle

12 Monrovia

19 Amici

26 Friendly Neighbors

Important Dates to correct in your book: The Rummage Sale is **NOT** April 19th! Set-up is April 11th and the sale is the following day April 12th!! Please change the dates in your books.– Thank you!!

Hello!

Happy Friday and **Happy Valentine's Day!** Information about Spring Fling is in this newsletter! Bring a friend, this sounds like a really fun Spring Fling! Call the office to register, 765-342-1010, as soon as possible, registration is limited to 25.

Have a great weekend,

Amy





SPRING FLING

Join us in welcoming this season of spring!
Create an adorable spring inspired painting on wood in a 1.5
hour art class lead by local artist Sally Hedges.
Enjoy a delicious lunch provided by the Friendly Neighbors Club.
Fellowship with Homemaker friends & celebrate a renewal of
seasons.



**MARCH 13TH
10:00AM**

Registration begins at 9:00AM

Wilbur Kendall Room

Cost: \$15

Lunch provided

**Limited to 25 participants
Call the office to register: 765-842-1010**





Boiling Water Bath and Pressure Canning Basics Presentation

Learn how to properly water bath can food to create delicious dishes. We will also cover helpful tips and tools you need for meal planning success.

Wednesday, March 5th, @ 10:00am-11:30am

Morgan County Fairgrounds Auditorium

1749 Hospital Drive, Martinsville, IN 46151

Register by March 3, 2025:

Phone: Purdue Extension-Morgan County 765-342-1010

Email: arunkel@purdue.edu

For more information contact:

Amy Runkel, Purdue Extension-Morgan County

arunkel@purdue.edu

Class Presented by: Mandy Gray, HHS Educator



Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution.



Thursday Euchre

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

\$3

Martinsville Senior Center

1369 N Blue Bluff Rd Martinsville, IN 46151

The Martinsville Senior Center hosts a Thursday evening Euchre event every Thursday evening, beginning at 6 pm. Come join them for an evening of old fashioned fun. All are welcome.

Euchre- Monrovia Festival Building

50 Walnut St. Monrovia, Indiana 46157

Join us each 3rd Saturday of the Month at 6:00pm for Euchre

Come play Euchre each month in Monrovia! Only \$5 to enter. You can bring a partner, but not necessary!



Derby Day



IEHA Indianapolis Spring District Meeting

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Doors open at 9:00 a.m.; Meeting starts at 10:00 a.m.

The Edge Barn

21097 Durbin Road, Noblesville, IN 46060

Cost: \$20.00

Menu: Hot Browns (turkey or ham), mixed green salad, derby pie, drinks

Continental breakfast items

(Please indicate if there are any special dietary needs)

****Wear your Derby finest****



In the news:

Hundreds of JOANN Fabric Stores Are Closing– which ones in Indiana

3483 W 3Rd St, Bloomington, IN 47404

2610 25th Street, Columbus, IN 47201

10030 East Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46229

1361 86th Street West, Indianapolis, IN 46260

1224 James Ave, Bedford, IN 47421

More stores are closing in Indiana, these are the ones that are located in our area. Stores are still currently open and you can still place orders online at Joann.com. No final closing date for these locations have been announced.

Spring District Day!

It is encouraged that Club members try to attend this year's Spring District Day. Club Presidents– talk with club members about attending and please let Tura know which club members will be attending.

FUN items to wear to a Derby Party:

Hats

Fascinator

Florals for Spring

Pastels

Lacey Details

Checkered Pattern

Touch of Western

Suit

Fun with Sunglasses

JOANN

Creating a Closed Terrarium

In the depth of winter, most gardeners believe their efforts are restricted to armchair activities—reading books, reviewing catalogs and planning for the spring garden. Not so! Through designing, creating and maintaining a terrarium, a gardener is afforded the opportunity to apply gardening skills to a new pursuit. You'll be able to shop for plants, get your hands in the dirt and create a beautiful, even intriguing, green vignette that will enhance any room in your home or workplace.



The focus of this article is in creating and maintaining a **closed** terrarium. The sides of closed terrarium are higher than the plants and it has a lid. This is distinct from an open terrarium, which has no lid, or a dish garden where the sides of container are lower than the plants. Open terrariums and dish gardens are a bit easier to create and their available plant palette is almost unlimited. In making a closed terrarium, you will be creating a miniature landscape with its own rain cycle. Your plant palette is a little more limited. But once created, your terrarium will require minimal effort to maintain.

The first step is to choose a container. It must be clear glass or plastic with a good tight-fitting lid or cover. Colored glass will not let enough light in for the plants to flourish. You may use a container with a narrow opening, but it will be more difficult for you to plant and tend. While there are specifically designed terrarium containers, other options include repurposed large glass cookie or candy jars, old fish bowls, fish tanks, half-gallon canning jars, old apothecary jars and lidded brandy sniffers. Choose a container that will blend with the décor of your home or office. Etched, ornate terrariums can be the centerpiece for a dining room table (mine are). A cookie jar will work well in a kitchen. An apothecary jar could be a nice addition to a bathroom.

Through every step of the process, be careful not to introduce pests and pathogens into your terrarium, as this humid enclosed environment is a perfect breeding ground. Wash your hands or wear clean gloves while building and maintaining your terrarium. Start with a very clean container. Wash it with soap and hot water. Rinse well in cool water and air dry. If you feel the need to use a commercial glass cleaner, keep the lid removed and wait a few days before your initial planting. This will allow time for all fumes to escape.

You will need a soilless potting mix with relatively low fertility. Garden soil is much too heavy and will compact. A purchased potting mix is a good choice and most are sterile. Before the potting soil is placed in the container, you will need to mix in some charcoal. Just a handful or two is all you need, depending on the size of your container. Charcoal will add organic matter and absorb any chemicals or odors.

In times past, it was thought that a layer of rocks or pebbles should be added to the bottom of the container for drainage. (It can be a design choice for a clear dish garden or open terrarium.) This is no longer the case. Place enough potting soil in your terrarium to equal the depth of the largest root ball of your chosen plants. This soil should be just damp—not soaking wet. When you plant, start with the smallest plants first.

When it comes to choosing plants, start with the adage that all gardeners know: **right plant, right place**. A large number of plants will work in a closed terrarium. Most fall under the category of either moist woodland or tropical. Succulents and cacti do not make good terrarium plants. Save those for your open terrarium or dish garden. Choose small plants—slow growing or naturally dwarf plants—that will fit into your container with room to spare. They should be healthy specimens. Remove any dead or yellowed leaves before introducing the plant into its new home. Moss, lichen and ferns are natural choices for a terrarium, with their fondness of moisture and their ability to thrive in dim settings. Choose plants with similar light and moisture requirements for the same container. This, of course, will depend on the planned placement of the terrarium in your home or office.

Your terrarium must not be placed in direct sunlight. It will cook. The preferable location is in a bright room or near a bright window. Some of these plants need very bright light. Others will do well in a dimmer room. Let your knowledge of light requirements for houseplants guide your decision here. If a houseplant does well in the room, then use plants for your terrarium with the same or brighter light requirements as the houseplant.

You can purchase dedicated terrarium tools or make your own out of things you have around the house. Clean hands are my favorite tool. A long-handled kitchen spoon is a good substitute for a shovel to create a pocket in the soil at planting time or to remove a plant later. A cork attached to a skewer or chopstick with a rubber band creates a great tool for tamping down the soil after planting. The other tool you may need is a scissors or very small garden clipper for cutting wayward, damaged, or yellowed leaves.

The fun part is, of course, creating the design. The simplest terrariums may house but a single specimen and yet can be extraordinarily gorgeous when the right plant is paired with the right container. For terrariums with multiple plants, you'll want to choose plants of varying heights with different foliage, form and texture. A consideration with plant placement concerns whether it will be viewed from only one vantage point or from every direction. As with a garden bed, if you will be viewing it from every direction, plant the tallest plant in the middle (the canopy), with lower ones near the sides and low-growing "groundcovers" (like moss or baby tears) blended in. If it will be viewed from only one direction, then the tallest plant goes in the back. You may even decide to slope the soil so that it is deeper in the back. Firm up your design outside of the terrarium. It is much harder to adjust the design within the confined space of the terrarium. Do not choose too many variegated plants or too many plants with colored foliage. This is a small space—more is not better. This is also a good rule for adding non-plant materials. It's wonderful to add a stone or twig or a curved line of pebbles to designate a path. But a few can quickly become too many. You can also create a miniature landscape with undulating soil and paths complete with buildings, small people, animals or fairies. You are only limited by your imagination and what you may have on hand. Just remember to clean any item that you put in the container.

When your installation of plants and non-plant items is complete, you will want to clean off any dirty leaves and the inside glass of your container. A soft clean brush or paper towel may work, or you can use a mister. Your terrarium will need to be watered, but you must go gently here. Misting may be enough. It is easy to add a little more water later, but difficult to remove any excess. Your goal is to establish a rain cycle within the terrarium. The first several days will require your attention. If there is water on the foliage, let it dry before placing on the lid on the terrarium.

Once lidded, there should be condensation on the inside which rolls down and waters the soil. The goal is that the condensation should look like a light fog. Anything heavier and you'll need to remove the lid for a day or two. Diseases usually get established in the first few weeks. Be diligent about removing any infection. You can choose to use a diluted fungicide.

Once the rain cycle is established, your terrarium is almost maintenance-free. Some experts suggest taking the lid off for up to 15 minutes once a week to let in some fresh carbon dioxide. This is more important if the lid is extremely tight fitting. Water only if condensation has stopped, the plants start to droop, or the soil feels dry. And then, of course, go gently. If the lid is especially tight-fitting, watering may be necessary only once every four to six months. I check mine by poking my clean finger into the soil. I must water one of my terrariums every three weeks. The rest require a little supplemental water every six weeks to two months. Occasionally, you may need to turn the container as the plants will start to lean toward the light source. Prune out any leaves that have yellowed, are touching the glass, or are growing out of bounds. You will need to dust or clean the outside, but avoid getting any commercial cleaner fumes into the inside of your terrarium. After a year, you may want to fertilize with an organic water-soluble fertilizer at $\frac{1}{4}$ the recommended rate, but not during winter. Spring is an appropriate time to fertilize. After a year, you may want to freshen up the design with a new plant or non-living feature.

Now that you know how to create a closed terrarium, go dig in the dirt and have fun with it! Create a beautiful new living feature for your home or office that you can enjoy year-round.

<https://extension.psu.edu/creating-a-closed-terrarium>

Author: Susan Marquesen Master Gardener



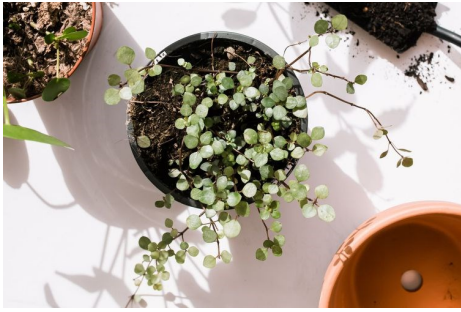
Easy plants for closed terrariums:

Artillery ferns are easy to grow, and they will best thrive with minimal care in a closed terrarium, as this plant loves moisture and humidity.

Aluminum plant thrives in a closed terrarium, as it favors the humid environment.

Polka dot plant is cheerful and comes in pink, red, and silver varieties. This plant favors the controlled microclimate of a closed terrarium.

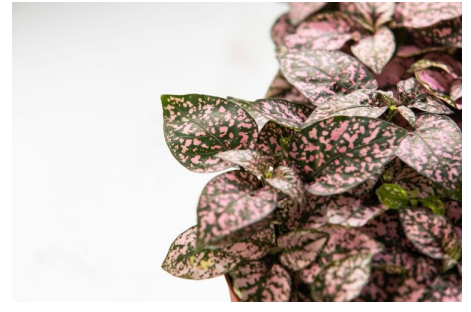
Lots of plants will do just fine in a closed terrarium!



Artillery Fern



Aluminum Plant



Polka Dot Plant

Fun “extras” to add to your terrarium:

Wood

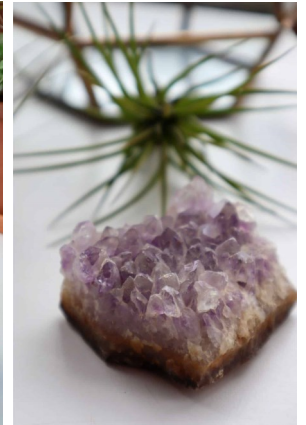
Figurines

Sand

Crystals

Shells

One large rock



Do you have a neighbor or friend that could use a little cheering up this Valentine’s Day?

Here are some cute and easy ideas:

Homemade Baked Goods– Nothing says ‘I appreciate you’ like freshly baked goods, lovingly made right from your own kitchen.

Flower Seeds– nothing says spring like flowers and thinking of gardens. Flower seed packs are inexpensive and can be tied with a pretty ribbon for a nice little gift. Add a special note to the ribbon.

Assorted Tea Collection– a warm cup of tea is always nice to have on hand. Give the gift of different flavored tea bags tied with a pretty ribbon. Another idea to add a special note.

Scented Candles– Candles come in all sizes and the small ones are pretty inexpensive. Put a few in a nice little bag for a nice gift.

Homemade cards hand delivered– Homemade cards are very special, and hand delivering makes them even more special!

Phone Call– the easiest and cheapest gift of all!

It doesn’t take much to brighten someone’s day!

