Transylvania Times newspaper article

**Indoor Plant for Clean Air – a talk by Bob Mertens**

We tend to associate air pollution with outside environments but the inside of our homes or offices may have poor air quality too. If ventilation is not adequate, stagnant air can build up allowing pollutants to stick around and of course, we breathe this bad air in. There is even a name for this situation “sick building syndrome”, which can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea, and eye irritations. The talk by Bob Mertens on “Indoor Plants for Clean Air” on Tuesday July 9th, will be a great opportunity to hear how a local Master Gardener can help in cleaning up our indoor air environments using plants. This talk is sponsored by the Transylvania County Extension Master Gardeners and is part of the monthly program of talks and demonstrations that will interest Master Gardeners, amateur gardeners, and the public at large.

Indoor plants perk up any room with their vibrant green leaves and interesting textures but did you know that many common houseplants can actually remove harmful pollutants from indoor air?  These plants can help remove toxic gases released from building materials, paints, and solvents that can literally make us sick! Learn how you can improve the quality of your indoor air with easy-to-grow plants, and make your home or office a little greener, too!

Bob Mertens is a Florida horticulturist retired from the UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County.  Bob's passion for plants spans over 50 years during which he has grown hundreds of indoor plant varieties.  His areas of specialty also include environmental horticulture, palms, landscape ornamentals, and landscape installation and maintenance. Bob and his wife Leslie relocated to Brevard from Florida in 2017.  They are both Transylvania County Extension Master Gardeners.

The talk is sponsored by the Transylvania County Extension Master Gardeners and will be on Tuesday July 9th, from 10 to about 11.00 am and will held in the Community Services Room at 106 East Morgan Street in Brevard. The public are most welcome and there is no charge. Refreshments will be served starting at 9.30 am. giving you an opportunity to meet with other Master Gardeners. Telephone 828-884-3109 for any questions.

Janet Lute

Master Gardener