Blue My Mind evolvulus is Miss. Medallion win

Dr. Gary R. Bachman **MSU Extension Service** look forward to this time of year to browse catalogs in

search of great new plants to enjoy in their 2019 land-The group of plants I get

excited about each year are the Mississippi Medallion selections. Every year, I promote this group of plants through Southern Gardening so you will look for them at local garden centers. The Mississippi Medal-

lion winners for 2019 are Whopper Begonia, a collard green, Blue My Mind Evolvulus, Nyssa sylvatica and Sweetie Pie blackberry. I'm going to highlight each plant individually this year.

Since it was established in 1996, Mississippi Medallion has recognized more than 70 great landscape and vegetable plants. It increases awareness of plant materials and promotes the sale and production of ornamental plants in Mississippi.

2019 marks the second time in Mississippi Medallion history that an evolvulus has been chosen. This year it is Blue My Mind.

The first evolvulus was Blue Daze, which has been around for a long time and was one of two plants chosen as the first Mississippi Medallion winners in 1996. Blue Daze has fantastic, funnel-shaped flowers. I like the fastspreading growth rate that makes Blue Daze a good ground cover in front of an Indian hawthorn planting in

my front landscape. there's an even better evolvulus choice for 2019. Blue

provement of Blue Daze evolvulus. The individual Many home gardeners flowers continue to be funnel-shaped, and they always form near the shoot tips. Blue My Mind is a prolific bloomer. Its foliage has a downy appearance, and the 1-inch flowers are sky blue.

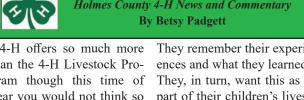
The flowers only open for one day. They are brilliant blue in the morning but look quite spent by afternoon, especially in planting beds that face west and receive a high heat load each after-

I've grown Blue My Mind

in my landscape as an evaluator for the past three years. I can attest that a little afternoon shade helps ease the summer heat load, but too much shade reduces total flowering.

Blue My Mind and Blue Daze need to be planted in well-drained soil that is consistently moist. Be sure to maintain fertilization to keep the flower production at its peak. I like using water-soluble fertilizer along with the irrigation.

As you shop this spring, be on the lookout for this great plant. You can ask your favorite garden center now to make sure they will have these plants available for your landscape.



than the 4-H Livestock Program though this time of year you would not think so with all our attention focused on that. But, it is that time of year and what I refer to as "Livestock season." Hence, you will see for the next several weeks a lot of youth displayed with their animals having been successful at the various shows.

As I write this, this will mark only my 20th year in this role with 4-H, but I have seen or been a part of most of the county shows since the Lexington Jaycees built our show barn. (I could have been a toddler watching my 2 big brothers show their beef cattle, initially.) I do, however, remember showing sheep for the first time, and the love it gave me for this

lifetime of 4-H. It is my privilege to watch They remember their experiences and what they learned. They, in turn, want this as a part of their children's lives, as well. This maybe why this program has become a tradition in our area for over 59 years.

I know that many question – just what is it that attracts these youth to 4-H. Is it the animal? It, certainly, is not the hard work. Whatever the attraction, the animal and 4-H provide relationships and a safe, family-oriented, and non-threatening environment for these youth to learn and develop positive pillars of character - trustworthiness, responsibility, respect, fairness, caring, and citizenship - all the while, they are just having fun and being with their friends.

I mentioned "hard work" – to be successful with these animals, these youth do, in fact, have to work hard. And, typically, those that have worked the hardest are rewarded in the end, if not by

and experience the develop-As good as Blue Daze is, ment of these youth. Many former exhibitors now have their own children and My Mind is a fantastic imgrandchildren in the ring. 4-H or the show ring, in life. C E E BOA Ε A O G 0 SHOO N NR∤H E O S S RK E D O NE Ε Ε Ε D

Trojans

(Continued from page 1.) points. The Trojans played Oak Hill Academy on Friday, and nearly pulled off another stellar upset coming from double digits back to being just down four points late with the ball before some late free throws by Oak Hill

stretched the lead to a final of uary 24, and are back home 48-40. Junior forward Wyke- against one of the top girls ce Johnson had 11 points.

again have a busy upcoming January 25. schedule. They played Winona Academy at home on Jan-travel to Winona on Januuary 22, and travel to Holly ary 29, to face district rival Springs to face off against Winona Christian School in district opponent Marshall the return game to cap off the

teams in the state in 2A in The Trojan boys and girls Clinton Christian on Friday,

Next week, the Trojans Academy on Thursday, Jan- regular season.

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