



Horticulture Happenings

An Iowa State University Extension Newsletter for Mid-Iowa Gardeners

Nov/Dec 2005 Vol.2, No.10

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Is this November?!?



Wow. This is all we can say to describe our weather lately. With the wonderful reprieve from the cold & ice --then tornadoes strike?

Some of our Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners were just leaving the Herbaceous Perennial Weekend held in Ames when the tornado sirens went off. Back into the auditorium we went! Dan Heims, of Terra Nova nurseries, one of our speakers for the day, read us excerpts from his book, "*The Garden Clerk's Dictionary*", full of horticulture humor heard in the garden and garden centers.

Our minds were kept off the storm with jokes and poems, such as: "*You know you are a gardener when... you need to write 2 checks before leaving a garden center; your driveway is lined with pots of unplanted plants; you buy a new plant - even if you have no room to*

plant it; you buy old cow manure in bags (while non-gardeners ask how can you know for sure it came from an old cow?); and you only agree to go into a hardware store with your spouse if you know they sell garden tools." Ask Marjorie Groves or Maxine Larson for more! Thankfully, the weather cleared and we were able to attend the football game!

Be sure to check out the photos from our Fall Floral Design Workshops held in October. In December, we will hold design workshops in our 4-county area to create a Holiday Centerpiece design. Read further details on these workshops on page 8.

The 2005 Mid-Iowa MG volunteer service record forms can be found in this newsletter or on your local extension office's web site. **Please return your form to me by Dec. 31!**

Yvonne Nilles
Extension Horticulturalist

Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners to meet in Fort Dodge

The Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners will meet Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the Webster Co. Extension Office, 108 S. 8th St., Fort Dodge at 6:45 p.m. The program "*Horticulture Resource Materials*", will be given by David & Peggy Moody, of Fort Dodge.

The MG Advisory Council will meet prior to this meeting at 6:15 p.m. Webster Co. MG's will be the hosts.



MID-IOWA AREA HORTICULTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

- Dec 1....Fort Dodge Area Gardeners
Webster Co. Ext. Off. - 7pm
- Dec 6....Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners
Webster Co. Exten. - 6:45 pm
(Advisory Council at 6:15 pm)
- Dec 7...Town & Country Garden Club
11:30 am, Emporium - W.C.
Annual Holiday Luncheon
- Dec 12...Floral Design Class-Ft Dodge
Webster Co. Extension 6-8 pm
- Dec 13...Floral Design Class-Clarion
Wright Co. Extension 6-8 pm
- Dec 14...Floral Design -Humboldt
Humboldt Co. Exten., 6-8 pm
- Dec 15...Floral Design Class-W.C.
Hamilton Co. Exten. 6-8 pm
- Dec 20....Fort Dodge Fed Garden Club
Izaak Walton, Noon potluck.
- Dec 23 – 26... ISU Extension Offices
closed for the holiday!
- Dec 31...Master Gardener Volunteer
Hours Form is due!!
- Jan 3...Mid-IA Master Gardeners
Humboldt Co. Extension Off.
6:45 pm
- Feb 15-19..Home & Garden Show
Des Moines, IA

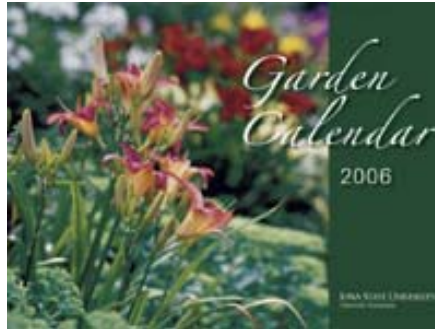
*For further details on these events,
call 515-832-9597*

**Please submit your news articles &
events to:**

Horticulture Happenings
ISU Extension Hamilton County
311 Bank Street
Webster City, IA 50595-2303

Phone: 515-832-9597
Fax: 515-832-9599
E-mail: ynilles@iastate.edu

2006 Calendar now available!



Makes a great Christmas gift!

The 2006 Garden Calendars (PM 815) are available from your local ISU Extension county office for \$8.00, and from the ISU Extension Distribution Center's web site (\$8 plus postage) at:

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store>

Did You Know? Christmas Trees

Iowa has approximately 200 growers, producing trees both for retail lots and choose and cut operations. Popular species include Scotch pine, white pine, red pine, balsam fir, and Fraser fir. For the grower, the sale season is not the only busy time of the season. Growing Christmas trees is a year round plan of action.

Starting in October, growers get ready to market their product. Most Iowa trees are sold in the field as choose-and-cut operations. These trees are tagged, graded and priced. Christmas tree growers are responsible for advertising their product, providing access to the plantings and helping the consumer harvest their perfect tree. This may involve providing shakers to help remove old needles, Christmas tree bags or bailers to get the tree home and into the house.

For a list of Iowa Growers visit the IA Dept of Agriculture's Web Site at: <http://www2.state.ia.us/agriculture/x/mastreedirec.htm>.

RECIPE CORNER



Apple-Yam Bake

- 2 sliced apples
- 1/3 c. chopped pecans
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 (17 oz.) cans yams, drained
- 1/4 c. butter
- 2 c. miniature marshmallows

Combine brown sugar and cinnamon. Mix with apples and nuts. Layer apples and yams in greased 1 1/2 quart baking dish. Dot with butter; cover.

Bake at 350° for 30 to 35 minutes. Sprinkle marshmallows on top. Return to oven until marshmallows are light brown.

--From 4-H & Friends Cookbook

We still Need You!



Articles of interest,

Photos,

Tips & Ideas...



**Please submit YOUR article
for the next issue of
Horticulture Happenings**



ALL submissions will be considered!

Please!

Meet a Master Gardener Intern...



Shelley Rethman

Our featured Mid-Iowa Master Gardener for the month of November is Wright County Master Gardener Intern Shelley Rethman of Eagle Grove, IA.

Shelley completed her Master Gardener training in 2004 and is working to fulfill her 40 hours of volunteer service to become a certified Iowa Master Gardener. She and her husband Rich, who is also a Master Gardener helped to clerk the Horticulture Division at the Wright County Junior Fair. Shelly also helped with bulb plantings at the Children's Garden in Belmond with Mary Hawley and has given a presentation to the Retirees of UAW 442 as part of fulfilling her volunteer hours.

She is shown in this photo giving a presentation on Gardening with Children at the October Mid-Iowa Master Gardener meeting held at the Wright County Extension Office in Clarion.

If you would like to hear Shelley speak, or any other of our Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners and Interns, please call your local ISU Extension Office for further information.

Thank you Shelley, for all your many hours of volunteer service!

Flower Tip of the Month... *Poinsettia*

Plant Selection

Select plants with large, brightly colored bracts (showy petal-like leaves) that are not wilted, broken, or damaged, and a full complement of rich, dark green leaves. Healthy leaves should be present even at the base of the plant.

The true flowers are the yellowish button-like structures in the center of the bracts. Avoid plants where the true flowers are shedding pollen or falling off.

Bracts normally do not last for long periods after the true flowers fade. Inspect poinsettias for insect pests. These uninvited guests tend to stick around long after the holidays.



Carefully wrap plants before taking the outdoors. Brief exposures to cold temperatures can cause the leaves and bracts to drop.

Plant Care during the Holidays

When poinsettias reach their final destination, unwrap plants carefully and place them in a sunny location away from cold drafts or heat sources. Temperatures between 60 and 70°F are best.

Check the soil daily to determine whether the plant needs water. When the soil is dry to the touch, water the plant thoroughly. Water should flow freely out the bottom of the pot.

Discard the excess water. Plant root systems can be damaged by sitting for long periods in saucers full of water. Bracts should remain attractive indoors through the holiday season and often until Valentine's Day.

-From ISU Publication Poinsettia Care, RG 316

Floral Design Workshops held....

If your club would like to hold a design workshop in the Mid-Iowa area, contact Yvonne Nilles at 515-832-9597.

In Humboldt County...



Pictured L-R: Jessica Norman & Linda Lanning, Rutland; Linda Murphy, Jolley; Kim Vitzhum, Humboldt; Pam Norman, Rutland; Sue Weiskopf, Pocahontas; Teresa Bleich, Humboldt; Jess Schade, Thor; Lorrie Bacon, Humboldt; & Jenna Norman, Rutland.

In Webster County...



Becky Buckingham, Fort Dodge; Esther Degelau, Callendar; Marcella Zuspahn, Kathy Geisler, Gowrie; Becky Geisler, Callendar; Louise Hauch, Humboldt and Darline Messerly, Fort Dodge created designs in Fort Dodge.

...and in Hamilton County



Twenty-two participants attended the class held in Webster City. Shirley Caggiano, Marg Majors, Kristi Nelson and Cathy Pannkuk are pictured.

Webster City Town & Country Garden Club also held a workshop...



Pictured L-R, Front: LoEda Paine, Carrol Moulds, Jean Schwandt, Lois Holmes.
Back: Betty Bloomberg, Mary Lou Fisher, Julie Maas, Delma Swanson, Jean Buzick, Joan Nessa, Maribeth Martin, Betty Nail, Ethel Brill, and Mavis Coleman.

Below: Marilyn Middleton brought her mother, Elsie Smith to the workshop as a birthday gift!



EXTENSION CONNECTION – Pumpkins

by Paulelda Gilbert, ISU Extension Nutrition & Health Specialist

Q - After we use our pumpkin for decoration this fall, can we eat it? Is it nutritional?

A - Pumpkin is a very rich source of Vitamin A and potassium; a fairly good source of fiber, niacin, iron and protein. The new food pyramid recommends that we have two and a half cups of a variety of vegetables each day. To help achieve getting that variety of vegetables in our diet, it is recommended that we have 2 cups of orange vegetables each week. Pumpkin certainly fits that category.



Photo by Sara Thill, Fort Dodge.

The pumpkin is a member of the gourd family, which also includes muskmelon, watermelon, and squash. Its orange flesh has a mild, sweet flavor and the seeds, when roasted, are eaten as a snack. Pumpkins can be very large, however, the flesh from smaller sizes will be more tender and have a better flavor. Choose pumpkins that are free from blemishes and heavy for their size. Store whole pumpkins at room temperature up to a month or refrigerate up to 3 months. Pumpkin may be prepared in almost any way suitable for winter squash, baked, boiled or steamed. It can then be mashed and used as a side dish or added to soups, casseroles, and used in baked goods or desserts.

Drying seeds and roasting seeds are two different processes. To dry, carefully wash pumpkin seeds to remove the clinging fibrous pumpkin tissue. Pumpkin seeds can be dried in the sun, in a dehydrator at 120 degrees for 1-2 hours or in an oven on warm for 3-4 hours. Stir them frequently to avoid scorching. To roast, take dried pumpkin seeds, toss with oil and or salt and roast in a preheated oven at 250 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes.



Submitted by Sara Thill, Fort Dodge: *“As I would personally like to hear more about area garden clubs and would like to visit other garden clubs sometime, I thought it would be interesting for each club in the area to write a short history of their club and the hours for meetings, etc. I also think it would be fun to do some joint projects or seminars together for the benefit of all gardeners in our 4-county area.”*

Fort Dodge Area Gardeners

by Sara Thill, Webster County Master Gardener

The Fort Dodge Area Gardeners meet on the first Thursday of the month (7:00 PM) at the Webster County Extension Office located on the second floor of the Bank of America building at 108 South 8th Street, Fort Dodge, Iowa. Anyone interested in gardening and good fellowship is WELCOME to visit our meeting and join our organization. We offer a variety of interesting programs and activities throughout the year relating to all fields of horticulture.

The club has one acre of land which was donated to the group in 1992. Fifty-two apple trees of 12 different varieties were planted in the spring of 1993. Three trees have been replaced. A rhubarb plot was planted in 1997 from plants donated by Fred Siefert. Twenty-one lilac shrubs of 10 different varieties were planted in 2000, and 143 one and two-year-old "Mary Washington" asparagus plants were planted in 2001. Memorial trees are occasionally added and dedicated to the memory of members who have passed away.

“Anyone interested in gardening and good fellowship is WELCOME to visit our meeting and join our organization”.

The produce from orchard and other plantings is sold mostly at the local Farmers Market with the proceeds going for promotion of Gardening and Beautification of Fort Dodge and surrounding areas. The club also offers garden plots for members and non-members to promote gardening in our area during the summer growing season.

Feel free to check out the orchard or visit our garden plot. For more information-contact Webster County ISU Extension Office-Fort Dodge, IA or any member of the Fort Dodge Area Gardeners Club, Sara Thill 515-573-7844.



Horticulture Happenings – Iowa State University Extension Newsletter to Mid-Iowa Gardeners



Holiday Design Workshops Offered...

Learn the basics of floral design & create a holiday centerpiece for your table.
Cost \$15.00, pre-registration is required. Bring pruners or scissors.
Registration deadline is December 7, 2005!

Future workshops in this series will include a Valentine's Day arrangement.

Call ISU Extension for reservations:

FORT DODGE: *December 12, 6 – 8 pm*
Webster Co. ISU Extension
108 S. 8th Street (515) 576-2119

CLARION: *December 13, 6 -8 pm*
Wright Co. ISU Extension
210 1st Street SW (515) 532-34

HUMBOLDT: *December 14, 6 – 8 pm*
Humboldt Co. ISU Extension
727 Sumner (515) 332-2201

WEBSTER CITY: *December 15, 6 – 8 pm*
Hamilton Co. ISU Extension
311 Bank Street (515) 832-9597

