

## MASTER GARDENER NEWS

### ISU EXTENSION - SAC, CARROLL & CALHOUN AREAS

*First Quarterly Edition: March 2010*

Hello Master Gardeners in the Sac, Carroll, and Calhoun areas. My name is Tom Duncan, and I am your Extension Program Coordinator for these three counties. Prior to some of Extension restructuring, I was the County Director in Sac, so I just added a few counties. I am a Master Gardener myself, and I have a passion for horticulture, so I am eager to work with all of you. This newsletter will basically serve as an update on a few items and will provide some basic information on various upcoming events you might want to attend. Let me know how I can work with your group to make our Master Gardener presence in our counties even stronger. Thank you for your involvement in the Master Gardener program, and I hope to see you at some of the events listed below. Feel free to call me at any of the three County Extension offices; contact info appears at bottom of this newsletter. *Tom Duncan*

**Changes at the State Level:** Cyndi Haynes is our new contact at the State Master Gardener office in Ames.

James Romer is no longer with ISU Extension (due to restructuring). Visit the state Master Gardener page at: <http://www.mastergardener.iastate.edu/> Probably the biggest change there is that this year they went to an on-line method of recording your volunteer hours. I have included the link below. If you did not see this link late last year, check it out, and record your hours so that we can show your impact on our counties. <http://mastergardenerhours.hort.iastate.edu/>

**Master Gardener Training:** I plan to offer training for new Master Gardeners this fall. I am not quite sure how that will work in the three-county area, but it will likely be just one location for all of us. If you know of someone interested or would like to attend a few classes to brush up on a particular topic, just let me know.

**Community Gardens:** We now have community vegetable gardens in several places. Carroll would be the largest and most established one. We tried to get one started in Sac, but this spring looks like it will not work out for many reasons. I will have at least one Extension plot at the Carroll gardens and will provide a weekly workshop on timely topics in the vegetable garden. If you would like to learn more or be involved in that, let me know. Also if you have additional community projects or workshops you would like some help with, I would be glad to talk with you about them.

**Backyard Gardening Workshop on March 27 in Lake City:** On Saturday, March 27, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. area residents are invited to a program entitled "Backyard Gardening" which is co-sponsored by the Calhoun County Conservation Board, Calhoun Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Iowa State University Extension. The workshop will be held at the Lake City Public Library, 110 East Washington Street, Lake City.

Presentations will include "Vegetable Gardening 101" by Tom Duncan, ISU Extension Program Coordinator; "Wildflowers" with John Wills, Clean Water Alliance Coordinator at Dickinson County Clean Water Alliance; along with a timely session on "Tree Care & Pruning Following a Tough Winter."

There is a \$5.00 charge for the program, which is payable at the door. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged to ensure that adequate materials are available at the program. To register or get additional information, please call ISU Extension-Calhoun County at 712/297-8611, or email [elleno@iastate.edu](mailto:elleno@iastate.edu). Master Gardeners may use the program for three hours of continuing education.

**2010 Siouxland Garden Show On March 19-20 In South Sioux City, Nebraska:** Iowa State University Extension in Woodbury County and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Dakota County are proud to announce that the **2010 Siouxland Garden Show** will be held at the Marina Center in South Sioux City, Nebraska, Friday, March 19, and Saturday, March 20. The show will include educational exhibits, presentations, how-to sessions, and commercial exhibitors. The hours on Friday, March 19, are 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, March 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost for one-day admission is \$5.00; cost for a two-day pass is \$9.00. Children age 12 and under admitted free. *(Price includes complete entrance to all features of the event including all speakers and information sessions.)*

For complete schedule and details on speakers, exhibits, directions, etc., visit the following web page:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/woodbury/news/gardenshow.htm>

**All-Iowa Horticulture Exposition II on March 19-20 in Ottumwa:** The Iowa State Horticultural Society (ISHS) will sponsor the **All-Iowa Horticulture Exposition II** on March 19-20, 2010 at the Bridge View Center in Ottumwa. Supported by over 20 Iowa horticulture associations and organizations, the Expo offers diverse, multi-dimensional activities for the novice gardener as well as the professional. Further information about the Expo appears on the Society's website, [www.iowahort.org](http://www.iowahort.org).

The Expo will feature two nationally known keynote speakers: Dan Heims and Stephanie Cohen. Also offered are 12 lecture-style presentations, live demonstrations by Iowa experts, an expanded trade show, children and family activities, and an agricultural issues forum in an effort to create a "state fair" for horticulture.

The ISHS is once again partnering with Iowa State University Extension to coordinate the event, and Expo brochures are available at county extension offices.

**Connecting Adults and Youth To Enhance Environmental Literacy Training on April 8 in Storm Lake:**

From planning a salsa garden to exploring a prairie, Iowa State University Extension and 4-H partners are being invited on Thursday, April 8, from 5:00-9:00 p.m., to an environmental literacy workshop that will provide a one-time grant sponsored training, resources, and a network for teaching youth hands-on environmental, agricultural, and nutritional experiences. ISU Extension Region 6, which includes Sac, Ida, Calhoun, Pocahontas, Buena Vista and Cherokee Counties, will host a "Connecting Adults and Youth To Enhance Environmental Literacy" workshop from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, at the Storm Lake Area Education Agency Meeting Room. Iowa State University Extension and 4-H staff will be a part of the Connecting Learning and Living training and networking session. This is an opportunity to network with teachers, educational program leaders, Master Gardeners, Master Conservationists, organization members, business people, parents and grandparents who share your interests. For more information on the curriculum, please go to [www.extension.iastate.edu/GrowingintheGarden](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/GrowingintheGarden). To register for the April 8 session, please contact Jennifer Rubendall, Sac County Extension, phone number 712/662-7131, or e-mail [jenruben@iastate.edu](mailto:jenruben@iastate.edu). This program is free if registered by April 1; after April 1, the cost is \$12.00.

Tom Duncan can be contacted through any of these ISU Extension county offices:

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