



# Horticulture Happenings

An Iowa State University Extension Newsletter for Mid-Iowa Gardeners

April 2005 Vol. 2 No. 4

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## Spring has Sprung!



At our last Mid-Iowa Horticulture Council, John Eveland, the County Extension Education Director for Humboldt County and Leroy Jensen, the Wright County Extension Education Director, (*isn't that a nifty tie to horticulture as they are CEEDS (seeds?);*) had an idea.

Okay-maybe you don't appreciate my humor, but I do think you will appreciate their idea to compile a listing of area Master Gardeners with specialties in such topics as vegetables, lawn care, flowers, fruit, houseplants, water gardens, etc. This will allow people with horticultural questions to be given the name of a Master Gardener with expertise in that area to contact with specific horticultural questions.

This will be a great opportunity to be able to chat with someone "who has been there and done that" for valuable hands-on, experienced

advice. You may even make a new friend or two in the process!

Another exciting program we are planning for the Mid-Iowa area is the Master Conservationist training to be offered monthly, starting May 17. Jim Patton, CEED for Webster County and Karen Hansen, Webster County Conservation, along with myself, John Eveland, Leroy Jensen and David Brown, Hamilton County CEED have some great training sessions and field trips planned.

Master Conservationists are individuals who share an interest in the sustainability of Iowa's natural resources, and becoming better stewards of Iowa's resources. You will provide 32 hours of volunteer work in return for this training.

Contact your local Extension Office for information on this program.

Yvonne Nilles  
Extension Horticulturalist  
*Serving Hamilton, Humboldt,  
Webster & Wright counties*

## Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners to meet!!

The Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners next meeting will be in conjunction with *Weed It and Reap!* program on Tuesday, April 12, at the Wright County Extension Office, 210 First St. SW, in Clarion at 6:30 p.m.

Wright County Master Gardeners & Interns will host the meeting. The MG Advisory Council will meet prior to the program at 6:00 p.m.



## MID-IOWA AREA EVENTS CALENDAR

- Apr 3...Spring Clocks Ahead! (Daylight Savings Time begins.)
- Apr 4...*Weed It and Reap!* Workshop  
Hamilton Co. Extension Office  
6:30 p.m. Door prizes & Food!  
Free & open to all gardeners.
- Apr 5...Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners  
Volunteer Project Planning  
Humboldt Co Ext Off - 6:30 pm
- Apr 7...Fort Dodge Area Gardeners  
Webster Co. Ext. Off. - 7 pm.
- Apr 7 & 8..FGCI Garden Study Course  
held at the DNR, Ames.
- Apr 12...Master Gardeners Advisory  
Council Meeting--6:00 pm,  
Wright Co. Extension Office.
- Apr 12..*Weed It and Reap!* Workshop  
Wright Co. Extension Office  
6:30 p.m. Doorprizes & Food!  
Free & open to all gardeners.
- Apr 13...Town & Country Garden Club  
Design Workshop, WC Depot.
- Apr 19...Fort Dodge Fed Garden Club  
Izaak Walton, 1:00 pm.  
Program "*Floral Design*" by  
Rose Morrison, Jefferson  
Garden Club member.
- Apr 19....Beginning Gardening  
Workshop held at Wright Co.  
Extension Office, 7:00 pm.
- Apr 21-23...FGCI Landscape Design  
Course; IA Arboretum, Madrid
- Apr 22...Earth Day
- Apr 26...Tree Planting Workshop at  
Kendall Young Library in  
Webster City - 6:30 pm.
- Apr 27...Town & Country Garden Club  
12 noon, Potluck at the Depot  
Webster City. "Iowa Rocks"  
by Norman & Irene Gordon.
- Apr 29...Arbor Day

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

**Submit your articles & events to:**  
*Horticulture Happenings*  
ISU Extension Hamilton County  
735 Second Street  
Webster City, IA 50595-1436

## Flower of the Month

### The Daisy

Born in April, your flower is said to be the Daisy, a symbol of cheer and innocence!

### Or the Sweet Pea?

Other sources claim the April's flower to be the Sweet Pea, which means "I think of thee."

This very unscientific hypothesis in research creates a dilemma – which flower is the correct flower for April?

Why not do as a true gardener would do when shopping—we'll take them both!

Visit the UK's National Sweet Pea Society at:  
<http://www.sweetpeas.org.uk/>  
where you can see this photo below of "Grandma Butt" & other sweet pea cultivars:



**Annual Sweet Pea** (*Lathyrus odoratus*) Full sun to part shade; humus-rich soil that is evenly moist; up to 6 feet; tendrils; blue, pink, mauve, white, salmon flowers may be fragrant; grow best in cool weather; mulch well and remove dead flowers.

- from the ISU publication, "*Annual Vines*", RG-317 available at your local ISU Extension Office.

## RECIPE CORNER



While waiting for your first crop of green beans, give this side dish a try.

### Vegetable Side Dish

- 8 slices cooked bacon, crumbled
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 (28 oz.) can sauerkraut, drained
- 1 (16 oz.) can chopped tomatoes
- 1 ¼ cup brown sugar

Add onion to bacon drippings and cook until light brown, drain. Combine with remaining ingredients. Mix well & pour into greased baking dish. Bake 350° for 1 hour. Makes 6 servings.

## 4-H Horticulture & Shasta Daisies

Hamilton County 4-H Horticulture project members planted Shasta daisy seeds to start their own daisy transplants, as part of their Challenge Project for 2005.

Members learned the story of the history of the Shasta Daisy, culture and care. They also learned the Latin name *Leucanthemum x superbum* with the genus meaning "White Flower" and the species meaning "Superb".

**Trivia Question:** Who developed the Shasta Daisy? See answer on page 4.



**Pictured (L-R):** Nicole Heinrichs, Webster City, a member of the Boone Booster 4-H Club and Elizabeth Johnson, Stratford, of the Stratford Spirit 4-H club.

## Meet a Master Gardener...

### Ruth Cramer



Master Gardener **Ruth Cramer** of Clarion, IA.

Our featured Master Gardener for the month of April is Wright County Master Gardener Ruth Cramer of Clarion. Ruth has been an active Master Gardener for many years and also serves on the Mid-Iowa Horticulture Council for the 4-county area.

Living in Clarion with her husband William, Ruth was instrumental in the establishment of the Clarion Garden Club, and remains an active member of the group. She enjoys growing both flowers and vegetables in the beautiful gardens at her home in Clarion.

Ruth completed her Master Gardener training 1997, and since has been active in various volunteer activities in her community. She has helped in community plantings and care over the years.

She will be speaking at the Beginning Gardening workshop in at the Wright County ISU Extension Office on April 19 at 7:00 p.m. Come over to Clarion to meet Ruth as she shares her expertise!

Congratulations Ruth! We thank you for all your efforts in promoting horticulture in our Mid-Iowa area.

## Volunteer opportunity in Humboldt County...



The new construction areas at the Humboldt County Memorial Hospital will be landscaped by Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners volunteers.



This area is in need of landscaping at the Humboldt County Memorial Hospital in Humboldt. Master Gardeners will be meeting on April 5 at the Humboldt County Extension Office at 6:30 pm to discuss landscaping ideas for the site.

If you have a community service project and would like Master Gardeners volunteer assistance, please contact your local ISU Extension Office.

# Mid-Iowa Horticulture Council membership change



Sam Brooks of Belmond, IA.

Elaine "Sam" Brooks of Belmond was recently named to the Mid-Iowa Horticulture Council as a

representative for Wright County. She is also a member of the Wright County ISU Extension Council.

Brooks replaces Lee Aldrich, III also of Belmond, who has served on the Horticulture Council since its formation in 2003.

Born in Nebraska, Brooks moved to the Rowan area when she was 4-years-old. Brooks has known Lee Aldrich and his wife for many years; in fact, she even attended grade school with them both.

Following school, she married and moved only about 5 miles away from her childhood home. Brooks and her husband Tom are retired farmers that have gone to the dogs--literally! They now raise Labs, Biscon Frise, Dachshunds and Miniature Pinschers.

Brooks's horticulture background includes maintaining a very large vegetable garden for many years on their farm, which was a Century Farm in 1977.

Last year, she raised over 900 lbs. of potatoes. She cans and shares her produce with her 4 children; she also shares her knowledge of

horticulture with her grandson, who helps her in the garden.

Her grandson exhibits in the Horticulture Division at the Wright County Junior Fair, held in Eagle Grove. Brooks explains, "If he helps in the garden, then he can exhibit. One year he didn't help--and he didn't get to exhibit!"

When asked how she obtained the nickname of "Sam", Brooks stated "Well, I had a brother who was blessed with four sisters. He gave me the name "Sam", and it has stuck since."

Along with Brooks, the Mid-Iowa Horticulture Council is composed of the following members: Officers: Richard Carlson, Council Chair, Webster City; Peggy Moody, Vice-Chair, Fort Dodge; & Ruth Cramer, Secretary, Clarion. Other council members include Jeff Becker, Fort Dodge; Jeff Deahr, Humboldt; Lynn Habben, Webster City; and Larry Lane, Humboldt.

**Trivia Question Answer (from p. 2):**

*In 1901, after over 15 years of breeding efforts, Luther Burbank first offered his new flowers as a mix, the Shasta Daisy Hybrids, named after Mount Shasta in CA.*

## Hamilton County volunteers at work...



Richard Carlson, right, explains the details of his hand constructed model for the Mornin' Glory Garden design to Master Gardener Sherry Lambi, left and Susan Buser, center, all of Webster City. This model was built by Richard for a Master Gardener volunteer garden design project in Webster City.