



Horticulture Happenings

An Iowa State University Extension Newsletter for Mid-Iowa Gardeners

Spring 2007 - Vol. 4, No. 1

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The robin in the photo above seems to be waiting for Spring...

Hardin County Master Gardener Marsha Roland of Alden snapped this shot of robin red breast sitting outside her door.

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It's Back? – Spring - When!



Yes ! I think it may be safe to say – Spring is almost here once again!

Many of you will be participating in plant sales or exchanges this spring. Now is the time to think about which plants that may need dividing that you may want to share. Be sure to read the article on page 2 for some division ideas.

Now if this snow ever melts, we will be able to walk around in our gardens! Late March is the time to clean out those bluebird houses and prune back some types of clematis. Did you know that there are different types of clematis, each with their own best time to prune? You can discover more on clematis at:

www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/RG307.pdf

An important point to remember when pruning old, established plants which have not had correct

pruning care in the past - a too drastic pruning job could be fatal. Overgrowth should be pruned annually - in stages - to achieve proper recommendations. For best results, as in most other types of pruning, do not remove more than 1/3 of live growth at one time.

But why prune you may ask? Proper pruning will promote larger, quality flowers & healthier foliage.

Well, with spring just around the corner, why not consider *Planting a Row for the Hungry* this year? Many Mid-Iowa gardeners are participating as to celebrate ISU's 150th Sesquicentennial. More on this program is found on p. 4.

"Happy Days"* will soon be here!

Yvonne Nilles, ISUE Horticulturalist

**For a gardener (and farmers) this means being outside working in the dirt... Whoops - I meant to say SOIL!!*

Mid-Iowa MG's to meet in Wright County

The Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners will be meeting on Tuesday, April 3, at Wright Co. ISU Extension Office in Clarion at 6:30 p.m. to carpool for a garden tour in Kanawha.

Jan Libbey, owner *One Step at a Time Gardens*, will give us a tour of her gardens and discuss CSA gardening. All area Master Gardeners are invited to attend.



MID-IOWA AREA HORTICULTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

- Mar 14&15...Shade Tree Shortcourse
\$150 registration - ISU, Ames
- Mar 16....Emerald Ash Borer Webcast
9 – 11:30 am, Free to Public
Hamilton Co. Extension Off.
- Mar 17...Spring Garden Seminar
9:00 – Noon, ICCO, Ft Dodge
- Mar 17...Home & Garden Show
Hamilton Co. Fairgrounds, WC
- Mar 20....Fort Dodge Fed Garden Club
Izaak Walton, 1 pm. Program:
"Landscaping Knowledge" by
Brian Dreith, Mar Jo's Flowers
- Mar 21....Spring Arrives!
- Mar 24...Growing Roses in Iowa, 3 pm
Home & Garden Show-Ft Dodge
- Mar 28...Town & Country Garden Club
Program: *New for Spring*
7 pm at Trinity Lutheran, WC
- Apr 3...Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners
6:30 pm, Wright Co. ISU
Ext. Office. Program: "CSA
Garden Tour" by Jan Libbey
Meet & carpool to Jan's garden
- Apr 5.....Ft. Dodge Area Gardeners
7 pm, Webster Co. Extension
- Apr 12....'Sitting Pretty' Contest/
Container Garden Workshop
Hamilton Co. Ext. Office
6:30 pm - 1st Prize - \$100
- Apr 24...Landscape Design Workshop
Wright Co. ISU Extension Office
6:30 pm

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

Please submit your events to:

Horticulture Happenings
311 Bank Street
Webster City, IA 50595-2303
Phone: 515-832-9597
Fax: 515-832-9599
Or
E-mail: ynilles@iastate.edu

Dividing Herbaceous Perennials in Spring

by Richard Jauron, ISU Horticulture Dept.

Perennials are divided to contain their size, to rejuvenate declining plants, and to propagate prized perennials. Vigorous perennials may grow so rapidly that they crowd out neighboring plants in the flower bed. In contrast, the performance of some perennials begins to decline after a number of years. One of the easiest ways to propagate a prized perennial is to divide the plant into two or more smaller plants.

The best time to divide perennials varies with the different plant species. Early spring is an excellent time to divide the following perennial plants.

- Aster (*Aster* species)
- Astilbe (*Astilbe* species)
- Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*)
- Bellflower (*Campanula* spp)
- Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia*)
- Blazing Star (*Liatis* species)
- Catmint (*Nepeta* species)
- Chrysanthemum
- Coneflower
- Coral Bells (*Heuchera* ssp)
- Coreopsis
- Cornflower (*Centaurea* spp)
- Daylily
- Ferns
- Goatsbeard (*Aruncus* spp)
- Gooseneck Loosestrife
- Hardy Geranium
- Hardy Zinnia
- Hosta (*Hosta* species)
- Meadowsweet (*Filipendula*)
- Obedient Plant
- Ornamental Grasses
- Perennial Salvia
- Phlox, Garden
- Shasta Daisy
- Speedwell (*Veronica* spp)
- Spiderwort (*Tradescantia*)
- Stonecrop (*Sedum* species)
- Wormwood (*Artemisia*)
- Yarrow (*Achillea* species)

RECIPE CORNER



Apple Streusel Pumpkin Muffins

- 2 ½ c. flour
- 2 c. sugar
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 Tbsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 c. canned or fresh pumpkin pur'eed
- 1/2 c. vegetable oil
- 2 c. finely chopped apples

Combine flour, sugar, baking soda, pumpkin pie spice & salt. In another bowl, combine eggs, pumpkin filling & oil; stir just until blended. Add apples; blend well. Add to dry ingredients, stir just until moistened.

Spoon batter into 24 prepared muffin tins, filling 3/4 full. Sprinkle with streusel topping:

Streusel topping

- 2 Tbsp. flour
 - 1/4 c. sugar
 - 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
 - 4 tsp. butter
- Combine flour, sugar & cinnamon. Cut in butter: mix until coarse and crumbly.

Bake at 350° for 25 to 30 minutes.
Test for doneness with toothpick.

Remove from oven & cool completely before removing from muffin tin.

-from Sara Thill, Webster County MG

WILLOW TRELLIS PROGRAM

The Town & Country Garden Club met at the Hamilton County ISU Extension Office in Webster City on Feb. 28. Garden Club member Richard Carlson gave an informative program on making Willow Trellis.



Mid-Iowa Master Gardener Awards Night held in Fort Dodge ...

Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners, Interns and guests enjoyed a potluck of delicious appetizers at their annual Awards Night held March 6, 2007 at the Webster County Extension Office.

A video explaining the *Plant a Row for the Hungry* campaign was shown and awards were presented following the dinner.

Loretta Daisy, pictured at left, of Lake City, has now graduated. She has received her Iowa Master Gardener Certification following the completion of over 40 hours of volunteer service in Webster County!

Congratulations Loretta!

Humboldt County MG's are excited to be planning their 1st annual Open Class Horticulture Show for their fair to be held Aug. 4, 2007!



L-R: Wendy Lensing, Humboldt; Susan Owen, Gilmore City; Doyle Darnall and LeRoy & Jan Jorgensen, all of Humboldt.



Loretta Daisy was presented with a pin, name badge and Master Gardener certificate.

Giving from the Garden ...

Plant a Row for the Hungry

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, approximately 25 million people, including 9.9 million children, have substandard diets or must resort to seeking emergency food because they cannot always afford the food they need.

In the past year, the demand for hunger assistance has increased by 40%, and research shows that hundreds of hungry children and adults are turned away from food banks each year because of lack of resources. Planting a Row for the Hungry allows area gardeners to contribute their extra garden produce to this effort.

Free seeds were made available for participating gardeners. For further information on the *Plant a Row for the Hungry* program, contact your local ISU Extension Office. Limited supplies of free seeds are still available – call 515-832-9597 for further information.



Renee Mosbach, Stanhope & Pat Kesler, Webster City selecting seeds.



Hamilton Co. Master Gardener Sherry Lambi, left, will head up the local *Plant a Row* campaign. Also shown are Diane Madoerin and Leo Lambi, all of Webster City.





Corinth Red Stars 4-H Club holds Corsage Workshop

A corsage workshop was held on March 4, at the Humboldt County ISU Extension Office. These 4-Her's are planning to use their newly acquired corsage making skills in order to prepare corsages for local nursing home residents.



Enjoy this "Corsage Collage" of the day's events!



Fun was had by all...



...during this hands-on learning activity!

If you have a community group or club that would like to hold a Corsage Workshop, call your ISU Extension Horticulturalist at (515) 832-9597.



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Not on the *Horticulture Happenings* mailing list?

Contact Yvonne Nilles at ynilles@iastate.edu or call 515-832-9597

to have your name added to our mailing list!