



Horticulture Happenings

An Iowa State University Extension Newsletter for Mid-Iowa Gardeners

October 2004 Vol. 1 No. 2

In This Issue:

Events Calendar.....p. 2

Mid-Iowa Fall Garden Tour.....p. 2

Thought for the Day....p. 2

Meet a Master Gardener.....p.3

Humboldt's Community Gardens.....p.3

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Helping you become your best.

Attention Master Gardeners:
Article submission may be counted towards fulfilling Master Gardener community service volunteer hours!

Council guides new horticulture program



Have you heard of the Mid-Iowa Horticulture Council?

It started when Extension staff in four North Central Iowa counties recognized

a growing demand for consumer horticulture programs and the need to maintain a strong Master Gardener group in the area.

The council was established in fall 2003 to address these needs. The eight member council has two members from each of the participating counties - Wright, Webster, Humboldt and Hamilton.

By combining resources, the council created a Mid-Iowa Extension Horticulturalist position to serve the horticultural needs of the four county area. I started July 1 in this position and have enjoyed my time since!

Horticulture Council officers are: Richard Carlson, Council Chairman, of Webster City and Ruth Cramer, Secretary, of Clarion. Other council members include Lee Aldrich, Belmond; Jeff Becker, Fort Dodge; Jeff Deahr, Humboldt; Lynn Habben, Webster City; Larry Lane, Humboldt; and Peggy Moody, Fort Dodge.

The council is comprised of people from a variety of professions, all with strong horticultural ties in their respective counties. Their diverse horticultural interests guide the horticulture programs and events planning for our area.

Happy Growing!

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

Iowa Master Gardener Update

The fall 2004 Iowa Master Gardener training program has begun with 23 students enrolled for the fall term.

Classes are held on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. All current Master Gardeners are invited to attend, and may apply attendance at a session as 3 hours of continuing education credit.

Call your local county Extension office for more details.



MID-IOWA AREA EVENTS CALENDAR

- Oct 3.....Clarion Garden Club -
Program demonstration
"Sandcasting" - 2:00 pm
Heartland Museum
- Oct 5.....Master Gardener Class
IA Air Guard, Ft. Dodge
6:30 p.m.
- Oct 7.....Ft. Dodge Area
Gardeners - Annual
Potluck Meeting -
Kennedy Park
- Oct 12.....Master Gardener Class
IA Air Guard, Ft. Dodge
6:30 p.m.
- Oct 19.....Fort Dodge Garden Club
"Christmas Decorations
for YWCA" - Sela Bryhne
Izaak Walton, 1:00 p.m.
- Oct 19..... Master Gardener Class
IA Air Guard, Ft. Dodge
6:30 p.m.
- Oct 21.....Master Gardener Class
Humboldt Co. Extension
Office, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct 26.....Master Gardener Class
IA Air Guard, Ft. Dodge
6:30 p.m.
- Oct 27.....Webster City Garden
Club, Noon potluck-Depot
- Nov 13....Herbaceous Perennial
Saturday – ISU

*For more details on these events
call 515-832-9597*

Submit articles & events to:

Horticulture Happenings
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The Iowa Arboretum



Mid-Iowa Fall Garden Bus Tour

Mid-Iowa Horticulture sponsored a bus tour for the public to Reiman Gardens and Butterfly Wing in Ames and the Iowa Arboretum and Gift Shop in Madrid on Saturday, Sept. 25. An informative guided tour was held at both facilities.

The group was introduced to the vast grounds and plant collections at the Iowa Arboretum. The bright fall colors there provided for perfect photography opportunities.

Lunch was held at Hazel's Café at the Reiman Gardens following the tour of the conservatory there. This event was well-attended and a great time was had by all.



In the Butterfly house at Reiman Gardens

Make new friends and meet other gardening enthusiasts by attending the next Mid-Iowa Horticulture program, volunteer opportunity or horticultural outing!

Thought for the Day:

"A weed is a misplaced flower."
- Anonymous

RECIPE CORNER



Fried Green Tomatoes

Need to make use of unripened tomatoes before frost? Try fried green tomatoes! They are so popular in the south that gardeners will even plant extra tomatoes to be harvested green for this recipe. I have not ventured to try them (do they taste like chicken?), but if you are brave, here is the recipe:

4 green tomatoes, cut in 1/4-inch slices
1 cup flour
1 egg beaten with cup skim milk
1 cup yellow cornmeal
1 teaspoon each salt & pepper
Canola oil for frying

1. Spread flour on a sheet of waxed paper or a plate. Put the egg wash in a shallow dish.
2. Spread cornmeal waxed paper or a plate, add salt & pepper, mix well.
3. Dredge the tomato slices in flour and shake off the excess.
4. Dip each slice in egg & drain off excess. Coat with cornmeal, shaking off excess gently. Place on a tray and set aside.

5. Heat oil in a large heavy skillet over medium heat. When hot, add tomato slices. Do not overcrowd. Cook several minutes, until golden, then turn. Drain on paper towels and serve while still hot. Makes 5 servings.

– Adapted from University of Illinois Extension web site

Meet a Master Gardener...

2004 Master Gardener Trainees



The Mid-Iowa Master Gardener class of 2004 is composed of 23 student trainees.

Students will complete 40 hours of training by ISU professors & staff, and in return, will offer 40 hours of volunteer service to their communities.

Front row from left: Juliana Bormann, Bode; Helen Schroeder, Somers; Jodi Kohlhaas, LuVerne; Doyle Darnall, Humboldt; and Lori Runkle, Humboldt.

Back row from left: Melinda Petersen, Goldfield; Michele Trauger, Livermore; Sherry Lambi, Webster City; Cheryl Rhead, Humboldt; Susan Owen, Gilmore City; Josh & Dave Mechaelsen, Kamrar; Barbara Ansel, Clarion; Ranae Anderson,

Webster City; Alyce Seaba, Goldfield; Jacquie Glaspie, Webster City; Darlene Wolff, Fort Dodge; Sela Bryhne, Fort Dodge; Christine Anderson, Webster City; Shelley Rethman, Eagle Grove; Dawn Durviage, Webster City; Lorrie Bacon, Humboldt; and Maxine Larson, Clarion.

Humboldt's Community Gardens

ISU Extension Humboldt County has partnered with the city of Humboldt, the Humboldt Co. Farm Bureau, USDA/NRCS, and Prairie Partners Resource Conservation & Development (RC & D) group to form a 16 plot community garden.

The 12'x20' plots are rented at \$2.00 per season, with a limit of two plots per person or group. The wide variety of crops grown in these gardens ranges from sweet corn to salsa ingredients, to be prepared by the local DSOC group from their plot for fundraising this fall.

Renters include homeowners with shaded yards, poor soils or no available space for a garden, to groups like the local



One of the 16 community garden plots available for rent near Humboldt.

Methodist church youth group, who along with their pastor rented a plot to grow vegetables for donation to the Humboldt County Food Pantry.

The plots, located on the south edge of Humboldt, are overseen by RC & D coordinator Bob Moser. The same 16 plots are

available for next year and hopefully more will be added.

Interested parties may contact Bob Moser for more information at 515-332-1720. All plots are tilled and fertilized by volunteers. Please call by Oct. 15, to allow plots to be readied this fall for planting in the spring.