
Boone County ISU Extension Master Gardener Update

Volume 14, Issue 3

May 2010



Upcoming Events:

BCMG Meeting

Tuesday, May 11
5:30-6 p.m. start time
Family Resource Center

Meeting & Work Night. Bring tools.
Move spirea shrubs from under windows to areas in front of brick on south side. Bring shovels and buckets for watering.

Family Resource Center Prairie Project

We hope to discuss their upcoming project of a prairie planting on the vacant space located behind (west) the building at our May 11 meeting. The FRC board desires to use our knowledge base for deciding what to plant. The city will prepare the bed for fall planting. At this time, the FRC board desires to open this project up for involvement from church groups, gardening clubs, Scouts, and any other volunteers who would like to participate. Kary Keys from the FRC will be present to give information about their project.

Tri-County Potluck & Meeting

Madrid Garden Club has invited Boone County MG's to participate in the following annual event.

Wednesday, May 12
Iowa Arboretum
Arrival Time (5-30-6)
Potluck (starts at 6)
Program (6:45-7 Start time)
Speaker: Denny Schrock, Editor
Better Homes & Gardens
Topic: A Visual Trip to Holland

Direct any questions to Lyn Harris,
iairisbelle@iowatelecom.net, from the Madrid Garden Club.

Holly Needs Help Thursday, 5/13

Holly Cleppe is helping with the Boone County Outdoor Classroom this week. The program is on Tuesday, May 11 and Thursday, May 13. Nicole Arnold will help with Tuesday but Holly needs one additional person to help on Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There are approximately 250 grader schoolers who participate with a small gardening segment led by Master Gardeners. Our group has done this for several years. Contact Holly at hollycleppe@gmail.com or phone her at 432-0265 if you can help.

Crawford Hall Project Led by Gwen Schwestka

Gwen has taken on leadership for landscape renovation at Crawford Hall. She's looking for the following donations:

- Hostas (any variety)
- Part Shade Plants
- Columbine
- Daisy, Iris, and Stella Lily or equivalent.
- Old paver bricks (without holes)
- Monetary Donations (tax receipts available)
- Help—physical labor. It is hard physical work.

In May she'll be there on Thursday nights. She'll be putting in a small Children's vegetable garden across the street. There is plenty of room if you or anyone else you know wants to put in anything. Food grown should be at least partially given to the shelter/soup kitchen and needs to be well taken care of. She needs help digging, transplanting, tilling, trimming trees. Gwen is keeping the log of who donates money or services to the landscape/garden project.

Call or email Gwen Schwestka with questions or to donate, 515-236-4313 or gwenms@msn.com.

Ames Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, May 15

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Reiman Gardens' Maintenance Building Parking Lot

Greene Co MG Plant Sale

Saturday, May 15

9-10:30 a.m.

Clover Hall, Greene County Fairgrounds

Note from Bill Johnson:

Boone County Master Gardeners,

Thank you to those that came and transplanted prairie flowers at the Prairie Resource Center Saturday. They were able to transplant over 3000 seedlings! There is always more to transplant if others would like to come on a different date. Just let me know and I will make myself available.

Let me know if there is anything that I can do for your group in the future. I would be willing to give you a tour of prairies in the area or my production plots which now have over 100 species in them. I have a meeting room that would be available to you if you wanted to tie a tour in with a monthly meeting.

Thank you again for your work. I enjoyed the day.

Bill Johnson, Biologist

Iowa DNR Prairie Resource Center

2820 Brushy Creek Road

Lehigh, IA 50557

515-543-8319

Help Needed in July

Amy Nash was contacted for Master Gardeners to assist with the Cub Scout Day Camp on July 23-24. They need help to plant terrariums for approximately two hours. The volunteers could decide either morning or afternoon or the Friday night to fit their schedule. They will have the supplies and are just looking for knowledge/assistance with the planting project.

Please contact Amy Walter at amyjnash@hotmail.com or 432-0063 if you can help.

Plan Your 2010 Fair Entries

Check out the web page for the Boone County Fair. Start thinking about what entries you might bring and how you can start shaping and conditioning them for fair.

Open Class Fair Book

July 17-18, 2010

<http://www.boonecountyfairia.com/images/2010%20Open%20Class%20Book.pdf>

Remember to mark your calendars to help at the Open Class Flower Show on Saturday, July 17 for check-in of exhibits. Sign up sheet will go out in June.

4-H Extravaganza Needs Volunteers

The MG's will again have an interactive booth at the 4-H Extravaganza on Friday morning, July 18 from 9:30-11. Holly Cleppe is in charge this year. Please let Holly know if you would like to help with the preparation or if you would like to help that morning. E her at hollycleppe@gmail.com or phone her at 432-0265.

Walkabout Gardens Daylily Sale & Hybridizing Class in July

We are excited to announce our Fourth Year of selling daylilies from our Walkabout Gardens. One of a kind and you get the whole plant/clump. You will get a gift plant with your purchase. If you have seen one of Nan's many presentations you know what her daylilies look like. We have the latest colors, shapes, and exciting edges! The plants are two to four Years old and have been evaluated to do well in your climate.

SALE DATES: July 24th & 25th, 2010 from 8:00 am – 12:00 Noon.

DAYLILY HYBRIDIZING/HAND POLLINATING CLASS date: July 18, 2010 from 9:00 am - Noon or until all questions have been answered. given by Nan Ripley in Walkabout Gardens. This is an excellent chance to learn how to hand pollinate daylilies. Price is \$40.00 and you will be given all the tools to keep, and hand-outs and you will be able to go home and hand pollinate your own daylilies. The class is for beginners and

hybridizers with lots of Tips and Hints to get you started or continue on with new inspiration. How does Nan get those metallic edges, come to the class and find out. You will also receive a gift daylily selected by Nan from her seedlings. Class is limited to 15 people so register soon, you don't want to miss this Class.

Directions as follows to Walkabout Gardens:

Coming on Highway 30 traveling East from Ames on Highway 30 about 3.8 miles from the turn off at Ames. There will be a sign on the right to Cambridge. This road is paved CR- R70 also the number is 580th Ave. turn right/South and go 2 miles to road 260th Street turn left/East and go 1.4 miles to the first intersection turn right/South on 595 Ave. our address is 26391 - 595 Ave. We are the first house on the right/West side of the road after you cross the railroad tracks. Our home is a white ranch style with black shutters. (Reference) There is a light brown house across the road from us. We have two driveways use either driveway.

We are very happy you have come to see our daylilies and gardens. Please park your car in one of the driveways or along the road. We do not have heavy traffic on our road. Please go directly to the table under the silver maple tree, where you will get flags and fill out a paper with the number of your flag. Please stay on the garden paths and watch your step. No deadheading as we have hand pollinated our plants. Daylily seed pods and flowers break off easily and this is why we need people to stay on the paths or grass. Lay your flag on a plant in the gardens that have been marked with a sign "Plants for sale in this Garden". There are gardens where we do not have any plants for sale but you are welcome to walk through these gardens and look at our plants. I will try and have many of the plants marked with ribbon that are for sale. We do not pot any of our daylilies, as we want you to see them as they are in the garden. On the seedlings we like to sell all the plant, and in this way you have one of a kind, your very own plant. Every seedlings is different and a new cultivar, these are not registered or named. We have several thousand seedlings. We will also have named/registered daylilies this year for sale in the gardens. These will be marked for sale. You can have all or part of these plants and most will be marked \$5.00 - \$20.00. On the seedlings they start at \$5.00 - \$20.00 depending on how many fans there are in the clump. This year we hope to have a few other perennials potted for our sale. When you have selected your plant by

gently laying your flag on the top of the plant. Nan will come and dig it for you and answer any questions you might have, then one of the helpers will bag and take it to the table for you. You can buy as many or as few as you like. You can also come and just enjoy the gardens as our gardens will be open during this time. If you can't find a color, size, form ask Nan and she will help you. Through careful hybridizing and selection, Nan has produced these awesome daylily seedlings. We are excited to be able to share our love of the new Millennium daylily seedlings. We look forward to seeing you in the gardens.

Feel free to pass this along.
Nan Ripley

Walkabout Gardens
26391 - 595 Ave.
Nevada, Iowa 50201
Zone 4/5
<http://centraliowadaylilysociety.com/nanripley.html>
Member Region One AHS

Brenton Arboretum

Learn How Conifers Bloom

Saturday, June 5th, 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM

The development of naked seeds inside of cones makes conifers uniquely different.

Michaeleen Gerken, ISU Natural Resource Ecology & Management researcher

In the Company of Bluebirds; Managing Bluebird Boxes at the Arboretum

Saturday, June 12th, 8:00 - 10:00 AM

Learn about the bluebirds that return to the Arboretum every year to the nesting boxes we provide.

John Bissell, Iowa Ornithologist Union

Crossing the Intersection of Botany and Entomology: A Crash Course in Galls, Mines, and Phyto-specific Insects

Thursday, June 24th, 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM

John Pearson, Iowa DNR Botanist/Ecologist

Iowa Arboretum

May 13, May 20, May 27

Join Us For Walking Club! (11:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

Join the Iowa Arboretum Walking Club. We will meet every Thursday through September. Join us for exercise plus a chance to get outside and meet new people. If you'd like, pack a picnic lunch and stay with us for lunch outside at the picnic tables. If it is raining, the walking club will not meet that week.

May 15, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Peter Rabbit Picnic

Pack your picnic basket/blanket and join us for a day of family fun straight out of Beatrix Potter's classic TALE OF PETER RABBIT. We'll travel into "Mr. McGregor's Garden" to learn all about vegetables and to do some planting of our own! Reading and an art project will complete this entertaining excursion. This event is aimed towards families with children ages 4-10 but everyone is welcome to join us.

\$5 per child or \$10 per family

Please pre-register by calling 515-795-3216

Trees And Cheese (1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Show dad a fun day of food, drinks, music and nature. First, tour the Iowa Arboretum. Then, enjoy cheese from local producers Picket Fence Creamery, Northern Prairie Chevre and more, paired with wine from Snus Hill Winery in Madrid. You will get a gift certificate for 20% off your favorite bottle of wine. Head over to Snus Hill for free music by blues band Randy Burk & the Prisoners and a chance to buy wine with your coupon.

Cost: \$10 per person, please RSVP by June 13

Super Sale Bonanza

June 24-26

Come to the Arboretum for our biggest sale of the season. We're having a MONSTER garage sale, up to 40% off everything in the gift shop and 10% off all of the plants in our greenhouse!! We'll even have snacks and drinks available for purchase!

Reiman Gardens

www.reimangarden.iastate.edu

Brown Bag Lectures

Bring your lunch to the Reiman Gardens and enjoy an education program. Call 515-294-2710 for more information. Free for CoHorts' members and ISU students. Price of admission for general public.

Thursday, May 20 at 12:00 p.m.

"I Never Met a Dahlia I Didn't Want to Grow in my Backyard" presented by James Romer

Thursday, June 10 at 12:00 p.m.

"Possums under the Porch" presented by James Pease, ISU Professor Emeritus of Wildlife

Bring your lunch to the Gardens and enjoy an education program. Attend each month and experience a new topic presented by local and regional professionals and lecturers.

Free for CoHorts' members and ISU students. Price of admission for the general public.

Behind the Scenes

Wednesday, May 26 at 10:00 a.m.

"All about the Giant Gnome"

Attend a new presentation each month to learn more about Reiman Gardens and its many plants and butterflies. Free for CoHorts' members, volunteers and ISU students. \$10 for the general public.

Floral Design Series

Tuesday, May 25 at 1:00 p.m. **(new section added)**
OR Tuesday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m.

"Tussie-Mussie"

Learn the tips and skills used by professionals to create your own one-of-a-kind floral design. Those who complete all nine classes will receive a floral design certificate from Reiman Gardens. The 2010 series begins in January. Classes are held on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. on January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, September 14, October 12, November 16 and December 7.

Cost for one class:

\$26 for CoHorts' members, \$32.50 for general public
\$19.50 for ISU students

Call 515-294-2710 to register for a class.

Memorial Day

Saturday, May 29 through Monday, May 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In honor of their service, all active duty personnel and veterans admitted free

Rose Festival

June 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Garden Art Fair

July 11, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Polk County Master Gardeners

ENABLING GARDEN DISCOVERY GARDEN DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

Saturday mornings at 10:00 am

Tuesday evenings @ 7:00 pm

Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm

1050 1st Ave. South on Vern Willey II trail E
30th & University - South of Agriculture
Building Dewey Gibbs Road & 92nd Street
Altoona Iowa State Fairgrounds Urbandale

May 22 Landscaping

Dr. Denny Schrock

June 8 Water's Edge Beautification & Floating Island

Howard bright, president, ION Exchange

June 17 Starting or Renovating a Garden

MG Mark White

June 22 Rain Barrels

Holly & Joel Gettings

Rainbarrels Iowa

June 24 Organic Gardening

Maury Wills, IA Dept of Ag & Land Stewardship

June 26 "Spore" The Fun of It

Come and Learn About Ferns

MG Robyn Hofland

Announcing the 2010 IRLS Lily Bus Tour -- Saturday, June 19

Join us on our comfortable coach bus for a tour of FIVE of the finest Lily Gardens in Northern Iowa created by Iowa Regional Lily Society members!
ONLY 6 SEATS LEFT!!!!

John & Diane Mihalovich's garden--Elkhart

John & Diane's extensive landscape glows with large collections of lilies, daylilies and other

wonderful garden specialties. A great way to start a colorful day!

Nan & Rip Ripley's Walkabout Garden--Nevada

Nan's huge garden features mature lily stands among hundreds of perennials, bushes and trees. Her daylily hybridization program showcases hemerocallis of all colors and shapes. A true treat for the experienced gardening enthusiast!

Carol and Roger Main's garden--Webster City

Carol's eye for color and diversity are apparent in this lily filled garden wherever you look. A rainbow of lilies that will delight your eyes too!

Peggy & David Moody's garden--Ft. Dodge

Peggy is an accredited Judge in the North American Lily Society with an enviable mix of lily cultivars in her garden. Her mix of garden plants is simply wonderful!

Randy & Deb Hull's garden--Perry

Randy and his family have been actively hybridizing lilies for several years in their small, but packed city garden. See the Hull's latest hybrids and affordable greenhouse set up.

The Lily Bus Tour starting and ending point will be in Altoona, IA near I-80. Lunch is included in the price. Our comfortable Coach Bus is limited to ONLY 55 passengers.

2010 IRLS Bus Tour price: \$25 for the day including lunch + a \$4 membership in the Lily Society = \$29.00 for an incredible day!

Reserve your seat NOW for the best Lily Garden experience of the summer!

Reservations:

IRLS 2010 Lily Bus Tour

526 Bezdek Drive NW

Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

Please make checks payable to: IRLS Bus Tour

IRLS membership: Name, address, email & phone #

Iowa 17 bridge to close May 9 between Granger and Madrid

Iowa 17 is closed between Granger and Madrid beginning Sunday, May 9, weather permitting, according to the Iowa Department of Transportation's (DOT) Des Moines construction office.

The closures will be in place to allow crews to replace the deck on the Des Moines River bridge. Iowa 17 traffic will be detoured using Iowa 210 and Iowa 141. The closure and detour are expected to be in place until the end of August.

Master Gardener Meeting Minutes

March 2010

The meeting was held at the Boone County Fair Grounds meeting room on March 9, 2010 at 7 p.m. Despite the thick fog, there was a good turn out of 10 attendees. Julie Nash discussed the Crawford Hall project and played a video on the homeless in Boone County. They are looking for volunteers to help with a demonstration garden and hope to have various groups help with planting and maintenance. They are in the process of writing grant applications for additional funding.

Jean Rhodes discussed the project at the Madrid Home. This facility is looking to the Master Gardeners for help with designing a garden at their entrance. The Home has maintenance workers to do the sod removal and ground prep, and volunteers to do the planting and maintenance. They also have raised money to fund this project.

Suggestions by members:

- Contact Bill Martin for ideas on integrating vegetables and plants.
- Raspberries grow well in many light conditions.
- Signs to identify plants.
- Card catalog on how to maintain the garden.
- Garden artwork.
- Benches made of composite material.

Contact Jean if you are interested in working on this project. Some of this project may be accomplished by e-mail. jkrhodes@prairieinet.net

Boone Garden Club brochure handed out and Master Gardeners are welcome to attend the meetings and tours.

Kary from the Boone Family Resource Center has requested help with knowing what is planted, maintenance, and the possibility of more plants. Still looking for people to help with this.