
Boone County ISU Extension

Master Gardener Update

Volume 11, Issue 4

April 2007



UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

How to Show at Fair—Flowers & Vegetables

Monday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.

Boone County Comm. Bldg, Fairgrounds presented by James Romer, State MG Coordinator, avid gardener and judge.

Mark your calendars for the second presentation in the series!

How to Show at Fair—Flower Arranging

Monday, May 14, 7:00 p.m.

Boone County Comm. Bldg, Fairgrounds Presented by Barb Henning, owner of Everlastings Flowers in Ogden.

Message from the Chair:

I hope this issue finds everyone well and excited about the upcoming gardening season—if it ever arrives. There have been many opportunities for continuing education already this year. And more will definitely be available.

I hope you can join us for the two programs mentioned above. If you know someone who might be interested, please give them the information and encourage them to come. We don't want our speakers to feel their trip to Boone was in vain. Bring questions, photos, etc.

The 2007 Open Class Fair Book will be online soon at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/boone> or <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/boone/news/boonecountyfair.htm>. Check it out and plan to show this year!!!

Deanna Garwood is planning a “West of Boone” garden tour this summer. We'll keep you updated. If you want to be included, contact her. If

anyone else wants to organize another tour, let me know.

Be sure to patronize the Boone County Ag group. And they sell corn gluten meal, an organic fertilizer. If you can't make it during their regular time, contact adviser, Doug Dodd, and he can make arrangements for another time.

See you soon!

--Melanie Erickson

Calendar of Activities

APRIL

23—How to Show at Fair--Flowers & Vegetables Program, Comm Bldg, Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.,

Speaker: James Romer

MAY

3-5—Landscape Design Study Program, Arboretum

5--SCMGA Plant Sale, Reiman Gardens Maintenance Bldg

5—Gardeners of America Plant Sale, 5560 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, 8-3, Rain or Shine

12--SCMGA Plant Sale, Christy Hall, Nevada

12-13—Polk Co. MG Plant Sale, Des Moines Botanical Greenhouse, 8-4 Saturday, 12:30-4 Sunday.

14—How to Show at Fair—Flower Arranging Program, Comm Bldg, Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.,

Speaker: Barb Henning, Everlastings, Ogden

19—Native Plant Sale, DSM Farmers Market, 7-noon, sponsored by Iowa Native Lands, DSM Park & Rec, Polk Co., Soil & Water District.

23—Polk Co. MG Garden Tour. \$10, tickets available in mid-may at DSM garden centers and ISUE, Polk County.

JUNE

9--SCMGA 1st Annual Garden Tour

Mother's Day Treat

Free Admission for all Mom's at
Reiman Gardens on Sunday, May 13

Boone County Fair:
"Aim for the Stars"
July 18 - 23, 2007

Iowa State Fair:
"SOUNDS LIKE FUN"
August 9 - 19, 2007

Ag Students Sell Feed to the Public

The Boone A&M FFA Chapter has opened a feed store at the high school. In previous years they raised and sold livestock. The store is open on Thursdays from 3-6 p.m. in the old auto shop. Enter through the double doors on the west side of the High School. They sell pet food, liquid fence, animal repellants, seeds, corn gluten meal, etc.

Member News

After a break as a BCMG, Monica Wells, 1995 graduate, is again volunteering as a Master Gardener. She lives at 525 S. Jackson and specializes in herbs. We look forward to having her join us.

Reiman Gardens

REIMAN GARDENS' VEISHEA BOOTH SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2007

Partner with Reiman Gardens and help us build the most beautiful booth on campus. The Reiman Gardens banner will feature your logo welcoming VEISHEA patrons to our booth that will be located on central campus and feature a beautiful garden area assembled on-site.

Counts towards MG Volunteer Service.

NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

April 24 12 to 1p.m.

To volunteer at Reiman Gardens, attend a one-hour orientation about our facilities. Sessions are offered six times throughout the year for your convenience. Please pre-register by calling Volunteer Coordinator Pat Kunz at 294-8225. *Counts towards MG Volunteer Service.*

MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2007

All mothers admitted without admission charged, free carnations upon departure. String quartet playing during a fabulous brunch served for one price for adults. This event is sponsored by Exchange State Bank.

Garden Art Fair 2007

Mark your calendars for Reiman Gardens' 5th annual Garden Art Fair on Sunday, July 8, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to the Garden Art Fair is FREE!

Artists and designers share your garden-inspired art with the public through sales and display in a beautiful garden setting. Artists will enjoy FREE parking, complimentary water and refreshments, and easy set-up access. Registration information is available at www.reimangardens@iastate.edu or (515) 294-8981. Registration deadline is Tuesday, May 1, 2007.

Iowa Arboretum

ARBOR DAY

April 27, Friday

The 2007 theme is Trees are Terrific in all shapes and sizes...and at the Iowa Arboretum; we have tons of terrific trees! Join us for our annual dedication in the Governor's Oaks collection, presentations by students, a 'celebrity-reader' story time, and Smokey Bear will be handing out goodies for the kiddies!

BRENTON ARBORETUM

Programs count towards continuing education

How to Plant Trees

Saturday, May 19th, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Find out why planting a tree at the same depth as it was in the pot could spell disaster for your new tree.

Members \$5.00; \$10.00 non-members

Andy Schmitz, Horticulturalist and General Manager

Counts towards MG Continuing Education.

DES MOINES BOTANICAL CENTER

Earth Day

April 22 10:00am – 5:00 p.m. Free admission all day for all ages.

Boone County Conservation

Programs count towards continuing education

GPS Egg Hunt - Swede Point Park Saturday, April 21, 2007 at 2:00 pm

Ready for an egg hunt like no other?! Join the naturalist as we use GPS units to search for hidden eggs with prizes throughout the park. In this program we will go over the basics of using GPS units, how they work, and then get hands on experience with a recreational grade GPS. Pre-registration required.

Wildflower Walk - Ledges East Entrance Sunday, April 22, 2007 at 2:00 pm

Hike around Ledges State Park and enjoy the natural beauty that covers the hillsides with wonderful colors.

Attracting Backyard Birds, Swede Point Park, Sunday, May 20 at 2 p.m.

Other Master Gardener Chapters

Actual program time would count towards continuing education hours.

POLK COUNTY

Thursday, April 19, 2007

What's New at the Master Gardener Plant Sale

This program has become a Polk County tradition. It's our annual sneak preview of what's to come in the way of new and unusual annuals offered at this year's MG Plant Sale.

Master Gardener Plant Sale

Saturday and Sunday, May 12 & 13

Des Moines Botanical Center greenhouse, 8 am - 4 pm on Saturday and 12:30 - 4 pm on Sunday.

"Season of Learning" Enabling Garden talks, in Altoona "Where Disabilities Become Abilities."

Saturdays at 10 am, **April 28**, Sept. 8 & 22, Oct 6, 13, 20, & 27 -- Monday at 6 pm, August 20

The learning continues at the MG Enabling Garden in Altoona's Prairie Heritage Park, near 1st Avenue South and 8th Street, just behind the HyVee store.

Award Winning Display Available for Loan

What a deal! The award-winning MG display item is once again available to local MG groups for use in local parades, garden shows or other garden-related events. Of course, we are talking about the Giant Sprinkling Can, emblazoned with the MG logo developed several years ago by the Mary Ann deVries, former Polk Co. Extension MG Coordinator, and the Polk Co. MG's. The sprinkling can stands about 8 feet tall and it even sprinkles. It is a sure-fire attention-getter

wherever it appears. Need proof? See the photo of the sprinkling can on our web site at <http://www.mastergardener.iastate.edu/>

The Sprinkling Can was recently used in Woodbury Co. in a local parade and as a key element in the flower, lawn and garden show. It was a hit and attracted lots of attention.

All that is required to borrow the sprinkling can is a trailer on which to haul it. It is not heavy but it is bulky. It pulls easily but has a fair amount of wind resistance so top speeds on the interstate are not achievable. To arrange a loan contact Mary Ann deVries at 515/984-6506 or devriesma@yahoo.com.

BENTON COUNTY

Spring Garden Extravaganza

The third annual Spring Garden Extravaganza will be held on Saturday, April 28th. This event, sponsored by ISUE in Benton County and local ISU MG's, will be held at the Benton County Fairgrounds. The event begins with registration at 8:00 AM and the program at 8:30 AM.

In addition, plants will be for sale for participants in the program.

Pre-registration is requested by April 20th. Registration fee is \$20 per person and includes materials for the prairie workshop. For registration information, contact the Benton County Extension Office located at 501 1st Avenue in Vinton, at phone: 319-472-4739.

Other Opportunities

Garden Gate Offers Seminars at Woodsmith Store

Learn from the experts at Garden Gate Magazine, based out of Des Moines.

- April 28, 9:30-10:30, Jim Childs, Start Your Trees Off Right
- May 5, 9:30, 10:30 & 11:30, Marcia Leeper & Garden Gate Staff, Create Stunning Container Gardens
- May 12, 9:30-10:30, Sherri Ribbey & Jim Childs, No-Fear Roses
- May 19, 9:30-10:30, Marcia Leeper, Putting on Pot Pizzazz
- May 26, 9:30-10:30, Kathleen Ziemer, How to Build a Butterfly Habitat
- June 2, 9:30-10:30, Stephanie Polsley Bruner & Kristin Beane Sullivan, Hypertufa: Make your Own "Stone" Container
- June 9, 9:30-10:30, Deb Gruca & Kevin Venhaus, Water Feature in a Day!

Seminars cost \$8 each plus you'll receive a \$5 Woodsmith Store/Garden Center Coupon. Or you can buy a season pass for \$45. [Seminars count toward MG Continuing Education.](#)

Seasonal Landscape Hikes at Brucemore in Cedar Rapids

Spring: Friday, April 27 - 6:00 p.m.

Summer: Tuesday, June 26 - 6:00 p.m.

Autumn: Saturday, October 13 - 10:30 a.m.

Winter: Saturday, January 19, 2008 - 10:30 a.m.

Brucemore Mansion 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403 · Phone: 319/362-7375

The subtleties, intricacies, and history of the ever-changing Brucemore landscape will be the subject of a series of seasonal landscape hikes in 2007 and 2008.

Led by the Brucemore garden staff, the package of four seasonal landscape hikes will take participants off the beaten path into the natural areas on the estate. Each hike will follow the same unpaved, often unseen route so visitors can appreciate the seasonal changes that, perhaps, influenced the original landscape design. The interactive hikes will also explore current issues of preservation and public use and identify stories of seasonal activities of the Brucemore families.

Participants will have ample opportunity to ask

questions and seek advice about landscape problems in their own yards. Each hike will end with refreshments at the Garden House.

Admission includes all four hikes - \$30.00 for Brucemore members and \$35.00 for non-members. Space permitting, single hikes may be available for \$10.00 per person. Space is limited. Call (319) 362-7375 to purchase the package of seasonal landscape hikes. [Counts towards MG Continuing Education.](#)

Brucemore Plant Sale

Saturday, May 12

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Take home a treasure from Brucemore's greenhouse. The sale features over 70 varieties of perennial plants.

The garden staff will also be on hand to offer advice. Before you leave, visit the Museum Store to purchase a garden novelty.

International MG Conference Little Rock, Arkansas

The University of Arkansas and Arkansas Master Gardeners invite you to visit our Natural State in May, which is a delightful, gentle month when our gardens are approaching their peak. Let us treat you to warm hospitality, fun and educational activities, and the chance to relax and enjoy the company of fellow gardeners.

The International Master Gardener Conference will be hosted at the [Peabody Hotel/Statehouse Convention Center](#) in downtown Little Rock, May 2-5, 2007. Please save those dates and think about coming early and staying late to enjoy some real Southern hospitality! There is so much to see and do in Arkansas, from the Delta - with its cotton, rice, and blues - to the Ozarks and Ouachitas, with their unique mountain music, gardens, and culture.

For registration and hotel information see the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension website at <http://mg2007.uaex.edu/>

Landscape Design Study Program May 3-5

Course II, Series 18 will be held at the Iowa Arboretum on May 3-5, 2007. The course is designed by the National Garden Clubs and is sponsored by the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa.

Registration fee is \$39 which includes refreshments and lunch on Thursday and Friday. If the test for NGC is taken, an additional \$5 is required for test materials. Make checks payable to Landscape Design Study Program and send to David Moody, Landscape Design Study Program, 2022 Westwood Acres Drive, Fort Dodge, IA 50501-8512.

A textbook, Stewards of the Land, written specifically for this series of programs is available from the National Garden Clubs (1-800-550-6007) for \$40 plus postage. The same book is used for all four programs.

Direct any questions to David Moody at 515-576-6021 or pmmoody@mchsi.com.

Several BCMG's attended the program in October and plan to attend again.

This counts as MG Continuing Education.

Pella Tulip Festival

May 3, 4, 5

Visit their website at <http://www.pellatuliptime.com/> for a full schedule of events.

[Editor's personal tip: Watch when the tulips are blooming here and plan on visiting then to enjoy the tulips at Pella. We did that last year and it was beautiful! Most of the attractions were available and the crowds were a lot smaller than at festival time. The tulips will probably be gone by May.]

"How Does Your Garden Grow?"

Living History Farms in Des Moines on Saturday and Sunday, May 12-13, 2007. Discover the many gardens around the museum grounds with blooming flowers, historic vegetables, and modern crop varieties. Help plant the vegetables in the garden plot at the Henry A. Wallace Exhibit Center where organic agricultural practices are demonstrated. The first 250 guests will receive a free packet of seeds.

Rainbow Iris Farm holds Bloomfest in May

Bloomfest! 2007 will begin on May 19th and continue through June 3th. Business hours are Monday through Saturday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Sunday from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Memorial Day hours are 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Check their website for more details,

<http://iris.stores.yahoo.net/bloomfest.html>.

Directions to the farm:

From Bedford take county road N44 south to 310th Street.

Turn right and travel 1.75 miles. You can't miss us.

Tune Into Local Radio Programs

WOI-AM (640) radio's weekly horticultural show airs at 10 a.m. every Friday.

WHO-AM (1040) radio's weekly "Gardening Today" show airs every Sunday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Remember to use the Iowa Master Gardener's Web Forum at <http://www.mastergardener.iastate.edu/forum/>. It's a great place to find answers to your gardening questions!

MG Minute for April

This is a Master Gardener Minute on daylilies.

Modern hybrids come in many colors from near white through shades of yellow, orange, red, pink and purple to almost black. Some have different colored eyes or bands. Flowers range from 1 ½ “ to more than 9 “ in diameter and are classified as single, double or spider. Most bloom from late spring to early fall for 4 to 6 weeks.

Daylilies will survive in almost any soil except solid clay. They bloom best if they are in sunlight for at least half the day. For best bloom, feed daylilies in early spring and again in summer using a balanced fertilizer. Water daylilies well, especially during bloom. In zone 5 keep the foliage over winter to protect the crowns. In spring when new growth starts, pull the dead foliage from the plant and dispose of it in the compost bin.

When a daylily clump becomes crowded and the flower size becomes smaller it needs dividing to maintain vigor. This usually becomes necessary every 3 to 5 years. Divide in fall after bloom.

This message has been brought to you by Iowa State University Extension Office and Boone County Master Gardeners.

This is a Master Gardener Minute on early spring garden chores.

April is here and we think that spring is here too. We are anxious to get outdoors and begin our gardening year. Here are a few things we can do on those nice days.

Those beautiful grasses you enjoyed all winter should be cut to the ground now and they will do better than ever this year. If you can get into your yard now, dead debris should be cleaned up. Tea roses can be pruned down to 1 foot. Be sure and remove diseased or dead stems. Since Iowa weather is unpredictable, don't uncover them just yet.

If your clematis blooms on new wood, from mid-June until fall, now is the time to prune them. If left unpruned, they become bare at the base with all the flowers at the top. To prune, just remove last year's growth above the lowest pair of strong buds on each stem. This encourages new growth from the base and from below the soil, resulting in a bushier plant with more flowers.

This message has been brought to you by Iowa State University Extension Office and Boone County Master Gardeners.

This is a Master Gardener Minute on pesticides.

If you can't remember when you purchased the pesticides you plan to use this spring, you may be applying products that have lost their effectiveness. A pesticide is a blanket name for many products. This includes insecticides, which control insects; fungicides, which control plant diseases; herbicides, which control undesirable vegetation; and algacides, which control the growth of algae.

It is very important to store pesticides safely to protect health, keep the environment safe and keep the product effective. Buy only what you need for the growing season. Check the container. It should be in good condition with no leaks. Temperature extremes may make the product ineffective. The label is your information source for proper storage and applications.

Mark pesticide labels with the date of purchase and make sure labels remain legible.

Keep pesticides in the original container. Never put pesticides in food containers, where they may be ingested by humans or animals. If you think a pesticide should be disposed of, always do so according to label recommendations.

This message has been brought to you by Iowa State University Extension Office and Boone County Master Gardeners.

This is a Master Gardener Minute on starting seeds.

This is a good time of the year to consider starting plants from seed. Starting perennials and vegetables from seed is a way to have a wider variety of plants at less expense. Choose a container with drainage holes and wash it with soapy water to kill any harmful organisms. Don't use garden soil. Use only the sterile soil made for seedlings. Follow seed packet directions exactly. Cover the container with plastic wrap or other clear material that will conserve moisture and protect from drafts. Water the surface carefully or let the water be absorbed up through the soil from the bottom. As soon as the seeds germinate, remove the cover to allow air to circulate. Use a south window or if a lot of seedlings, use a fluorescent light at no more than six inches above the seedlings. In mid-May "harden off" by setting the containers outdoors for a few hours at a time over three or four days and then plant the seedlings in a well-prepared bed.

This message has been brought to you by Iowa State University Extension Office and Boone County Master Gardeners.

Boone County MG Meeting Minutes
March 13th 2007, 7:00 p.m.
Extension Office

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Melanie Erickson, at 7:10 pm.

Present: Teresa Davenport, Gina Christians, Gayle Olson, Holly Cleppe, Karen Groat, Ted and Deanna Garwood, Miriam Stevenson, Cindy Bugar, Melanie Erickson and guests Sue Pratt and Doug Dodd.

The February minutes were approved, moved by Teresa D and 2nd by Holly C.

Old Business:

Sue Pratt updated us on RSVP Caregiver Project. We plan to start earlier this year and Sue suggested assigning projects. There are 2 in Mongoina, 1 in N. Boone, 2-3 in Boone. We received positive, appreciation and a feeling of relief from caregivers who received our help last year. Gina Christians will again chair this project.

We discussed the request from Scott Wilber, Boone Farmer's Market regarding possible help for once a month special activities. Several volunteered for at least one month. Melanie will contact more MG's to see if they are willing to help with a week or two and if anyone is willing to organize volunteers each time.

Doug Dodd discussed the Project Orange Thumb Grant Cooperation between Boone FFA and Fiskars Co. We would partner for education with or without the grant. We would be able to use the tools purchased by FFA. Doug also let us know about the Farm Store the FFA runs that is open to the public.

Old Project Updates: RSVP to the elderly will wait until fall. We have enough projects this spring. Melanie will chair that project.

Garden Challenge will offer names and addresses of Cindy B., Jim J., Connie C., Melanie E., and Teresa D. for resources, if needed, to those participating.

The Beckwith Family Center has requested help with 3 projects: Replant a tree, reseed some lawn and repair border edging. No interested MG's were found.

Our next meeting will be a program on How to Show at Fair. We will include FFA students in the contacts along with previous exhibitors and MG's. General public is also welcome.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by Cindy Bugar, Secretary