
Boone County ISU Extension

Master Gardener Update

Volume 11, Issue 9

September 2007



NEXT MEETINGS:

Wednesday, September 7
7 p.m., Extension Office

Wednesday, October 17
7 p.m., Extension Office

Tuesday, November 13
6:30 p.m., Graduation/Potluck
Community Building

If anyone would like to give a program in
September or October, let Melanie know.

The dates for meetings avoid MG classes and
there is a room available at the EO.

Message from the Chair:

I hope you had a great summer. The heat made it seem like a long summer. The rain has provided a welcome break from watering. Either the heat was just hard on everything or I didn't plant good varieties this year. I'm not going to do the same thing next year to find out though.

Remember continuing education and volunteer service hours. It'd only two months before they need turned in. Interns, it's now time to panic and frantically work if you want to complete your hours. We had to turn ours in in September or October and August was our big panic month. If you still need volunteer service hours and you need ideas, contact Gina Christians, volunteer coordinator.

Hope we see everyone at the next meeting. It's been so long since we've been together. We just need to talk about fall plans, etc.

--Melanie Erickson

Calendar of Activities

September

7—Meeting. 7 p.m., Bring seeds, pictures, talk about what you did this summer, what worked, didn't work.

27—Farmer's Market Booth, 3-6 p.m.
Contact Melanie to volunteer.

October

17—Meeting. **WE NEED A SPEAKER and/or PROGRAM.** Let Melanie know if you have an idea or if you're willing to present an educational program yourself!!! Counts for community service for presenter and continuing education for others.

??—Farmer's Market Booth, 3-6 p.m.
Contact Melanie to volunteer.

November

1—Deadline to turn in hours to be recognized at the 2007 Graduation/Potluck.

13—Graduation/Potluck (Elect officers for 2008).
Community Building. Bring a dish to share.

December

Steering Committee Meeting

Member News

Condolences to Carol Erickson on the loss of her granddaughter in August.

Share Your Seeds

Don't throw your seeds away—share them with other MG's. Bring seeds to share/exchange to the September, October and/or November MG meetings.

BCMG Email – New!!!

bcmg50036@gmail.com

MG's did well in Fair Floriculture Show

Several MG's participated in the Open Class Floriculture Show at the Boone County Fair in July.

Greg Anderson's roses received Best of Show.

James Romer was our only Story County entrant. He won awards for his beautiful dahlias and he exhibited an assorted variety of other plants. He won Sweepstakes Award for the most blue ribbons.

Other BCMG's who exhibited were Cindy Bargar, Gina Christians, Holly Cleppe, Teresa Davenport, Carol Erickson, Melanie Erickson, Mike Kurtz and Melissa O'Brian. We were quite well organized this year and had the 400+ exhibits ready for the judge at noon. In 2005 we had 200+ entries and 300+ entries in 2006. Our exhibitor numbers as well as entries are increasing each year.

Start Organizing Your Hours

We'll soon be asking for the 2007 Community Service and Continuing Education hours. You need to have at least six of each and interns need 40 hours of community service. We need them before **November 1**. However, you do have until December 31 to complete your hours. If you don't have your hours completed and don't plan to finish them, please let us know so we don't keep asking you.

Whenever you choose to end this year, you can start your hours for 2008. If you can't remember when you ended your 2006 hours, let Rich know and he can get you the date.

Blank forms were sent in the January newsletter and are attached again. These are MS Word forms and you can type the information in each cell instead of handwriting. Then you can just email the forms in!

Email the completed information to bcmg50036@gmail.com, deliver to ISU Extension, 603 Story Street, Boone, IA 50036, or fax to 515-432-3883.

Please turn your hours in!!!! If you didn't turn in 2006 hours, do those, too!!!

News Articles

News articles are needed for the Master Gardener Update. Please send articles to Linda Cox, Newsletter Editor (cox1@netins.net, PO Box 386, Ogden, IA 50212).

Remember: Time spent researching and writing articles can be used for community service hours.

Remember Continuing Education

MG's need to have a minimum of six (6) hours of continuing education each calendar year. Many of our meetings and tours count toward CE's. However, remember the MG training classes start September 4. You can attend the MG Training classes for continuing education if there are seats available.

Let Rich know if you want to attend any of the classes and he can let you know time and location.

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/boone/news/mastergardener07.htm> or is as follows.

If you want to attend any of the following trainings, contact Rich Wrage at the EO for time, exact location, etc.

Date	Topic	Location
9/11	Botany/Plant Propagation/Soils	Ames
9/13	Vegetables and Herbs	Nevada
9/18	Fruit Culture	Ames
9/20	Houseplants	Nevada
9/25	Animal Ecology/Wildlife Management	Ames
10/2	Plant Pathology & Entomology	Ames
10/4	Herbaceous Ornamentals	Nevada
10/9	Turfgrass	Ames
10/16	Landscape Trees Shrubs	Ames
10/18	IPM & Pesticide Considerations	Nevada
10/23	Home Landscape Design	Ames

2008 Garden Calendar Celebrates Sesquicentennial

In honor of ISU's Sesquicentennial celebration -- and to mark 30 years of garden calendars -- the 2008 Extension Garden Calendar focuses on horticulture history at ISU. Each month features a short bio of an Iowan who helped shape and promote horticulture education. An illustrated timeline is included on the inside back cover along with a list of publications and resources.

Copies are \$8. Sample copies and promotional posters will be in county offices soon.

Iowa Arboretum

Programs count towards continuing education

SEPTEMBER 6

Good Trees - Good Maintenance - MG (5:30PM)

Dr. Jeff Iles, Professor and Chair of the Department of Horticulture, I.S.U., will present an informative program on trees for your landscape. He will provide suggestions on choosing the right tree for the right place, and also cover tree maintenance. This program will include a tour out on the Arboretum grounds and then move inside the Hughes Center to conclude the program.

Fee: \$8 Members; \$10 Non-Members

SEPTEMBER 21

Volunteer Workday - MG (9AM)

Help staff complete preparations for the Ornamental Grass Sale. Come work as long as your schedule will allow. We will provide refreshments for the morning break. Bring lunch if you can stay into the afternoon.

SEPTEMBER 22, Saturday

Ornamental Grass Sale! (9 AM)

This sale is too big to miss; we offer the best selection of hardy ornamental grasses for sale! Proven hardy and on display, this is your opportunity to purchase many unique grasses for your landscape. At 10:30, Dr. Lois Girton will present an informative program on growing Ornamental Grasses in Iowa.

This program is free and open to the public

Reiman Gardens

Programs count towards continuing education

Brown Bag Lunches

September 13, 2007, Noon

September 13 – 'House Plants – For Every Home, How to Select and Where to Grow'. A refresher on which plants to grow and where they do best– light, humidity, temperature, etc. Learn the benefits of "air cleaning plants, and plant therapy. Plus, how to bring plants inside after they have spent the summer outside. Dr. Cindy Haynes, ISU Dept of Horticulture.

Other Opportunities

High Tunnel Growers' Field Day

September 6th, 2007 at 6 pm to 8 pm **FREE**

ISU Hort Research Farm, 55519 170th St, Ames, IA

Learn about production strategies for extending the growing season of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and brambles through field and high tunnel production.

Tour actual high tunnels in production and learn about pruning, pest scouting, and variety comparisons. Other topics include models for light processing and marketing. **Reservations are required.**

For more information contact:

Linda Naeve, lnaeve@iastate.edu, 515-294-8946

MYSTICAL, MARVELOUS, MEMORABLE PLANTS

Saturday, September 8, 2007, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. -

Bickelhaupt Arboretum, 340 S. 14th St., Clinton Course #38412 Cost \$9

Join Margo Hansen, Margo Hansen, Lawn & Garden Mgr., Paul's Discount, as she enlightens us on some of the most unusual plants in her repertoire. She will lead us in discovering the Lunaria (Money Plant), Brugmansia (Angel Trumpet), and Papyrus (used by Egyptians to make paper).

LIMITED SEATING. MUST PRE-REGISTER BY CALLING 244-7100 or 888-336-3907, or you may pay and register in person at the Business Office at Clinton Community College.

Meredith Gardener's Choice Lecture

September 25, 6 p.m., Botanical Center of Des Moines. "Autumn Gardens: Plants and Plans for the Forgotten Season" Ethne Clarke, Garden Editor - Traditional Home \$20 for general public, \$10 for members. For more information or to become a member please call 515-323-6297. *Join us early to meet the editor - reception 5:00 P.M.

Other MG Groups

Polk County

September 11

“Discover Gardening at the Discovery Garden”

On the Iowa State Fairgrounds Tuesday evenings at 7 PM. Bring a lawn chair to the south side of the Ag Building, and leave your \$ at home—[classes](#) are *FREE!*

"Season of Learning" *Enabling Garden* talks, in Altoona “Where Disabilities Become Abilities”. Saturdays at 10 am, Sept. 8 & 22, Oct 6, 13, 20, & 27 - Monday at 6 pm, August 20

We're growing at the Enabling Garden! 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. Join us on these dates for great garden information.

Story County

Master Gardener Presents

October 1, 2007

Master Gardener Presents is planning a day-long October session that will include three guest speakers on gardening topics, and three sessions in a rotating format to allow participants to hear topics of their interests. This event will qualify for six hours of master gardener education credits. All the upcoming events will be introduced as soon as the programs, dates and times are finalized.

The Story County Master Gardeners Association is affiliated with Iowa State University Extension Service for the purpose of educating interested people in sound horticulture practices. The SCMGA also supports the following programs: Story County library book program, Reiman Gardens' internship program, horticulture scholarships, horticulture grants, Story County 4-H horticulture awards, maintaining several community gardens, providing two spring plant sales, offering adult education programs and various community projects. In 2006, the SCMGA volunteers completed over 2800 hours of community service.

Interesting Websites & Tips

Cyndi's Catalog of Garden Catalogs

It won't be long before the gardens are put to bed and buried under the snow. It will be time to curl up with a cup of hot chocolate and a stack of garden catalogs to plan and dream of next year's garden. Check out this website to find a ton of catalogs.

<http://www.gardenlist.com/>

Vegetable MD Online

Are some of your plants sick? Did someone ask you about a plant disease? Is something wrong with your tomato plants? Check out this website from Cornell University.

<http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/Home.htm>

Master Gardener Forum

Don't forget about this website hosted in Ames.

<http://www.mastergardener.iastate.edu/forum/>

More Benefits from Mulch

In a recent article Thomson and Hoffmann found several effects of mulch. Not only did straw and

compost mulches aid in weed and moisture control, but they both also increased the number of natural enemies. Ground beetles, parasitoid Hymenoptera (sawflies, wasps, bees and ants) and spiders increased with both mulches. Predatory and parasitic Diptera (flies and midges) and Hemiptera (cicadas, aphids and planthoppers) increased in the canopy when the mulches were used. Earthworms also increased with the use of straw mulch. Another plus was that the mulch did not influence the number of pests.

Thomson, L.J. and Hoffmann A.A. Effects of ground cover (straw and compost) on the abundance of natural enemies and soil macro invertebrates in vineyards. *Agricultural and Forest Entomology* (2007), 9, 173-179.

Leave Perennial Seedheads

Don't be too quick to cut off perennial plants as they finish blooming. Leaving seedheads on coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, and just about anything else in the daisy family will draw birds and scatter seeds for more plants next year. Some annuals, such as impatiens, petunias, snapdragons, and salvia, will reseed themselves for next spring.

Boone County MG Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
Extension Office

The meeting was called to order by Melanie Erickson.

Roll Call:

Holly Cleppe, Linda Cox, Theresa Davenport, Melanie Erickson

Melanie will check on ordering T-shirts.

Projects:

Mamie Eisenhower Birthplace -- An herb garden is desired to be planted by the kitchen. There is a question of access to water. Angie Nash, Gena Treganza and Linda Cox are working on this. They are wondering about using mulch. Linda is considering using straw as mulch to be closer to authentic.

4th and Story -- Miriam Stevenson and Jim Jordan are working on this.

Extravaganza -- Karen Dannen and Leone **Junck** are working on this

FFA -- It is believed the grant was funded, but we have not heard anymore about this project.

Courthouse -- The Superintendent wants to minimize the work involved. Holly Cleppe I working with him to accomplish this.

Pet Cemetery & Habitat for Humanity -- Jim Jordan is taking care of the flowers at the front of the cemetery and is also working on the landscaping at the new Habitat for Humanity house in Boone.

Educational Presentations -- Carol Erickson and Melanie Erickson have given presentations. Holly Cleppe and Linda Cox helped with the Outdoor Classroom.

Family Resource Center -- Work was done by Melanie Erickson, Jim Jordan and Greg Anderson. The work is completed but will need weeded again in the fall.

Arboretum -- Work has been done on the South side. It was mulched. Theresa Davenport, Greg Anderson and Miriam Stevenson worked on this.

County Fair -- A sign up sheet was passed around and will be sent out by email to members.

Story Co. Foster Grandparent Program -- Melanie gave a presentation on handicapped accessible gardening.

8th and Linn (HyVee) -- Someone needs to take over this project. Melanie will look into this. No volunteers found.

The Water Garden tour is the same day as the Garden Tour this year, so we will not commit the group this year.

Discussion of July Program

Nan Ripley will make a presentation on daylilies and a tour will be given of her gardens. The tentative date is July 16th, in Nevada.

The meeting was adjourned

Submitted by Holly Cleppe

2007 Boone County ISU Extension Master Gardener Continuing Education Record

Name _____

Date	Title of Event Attended	Speaker	Location	No. Class Hours
		TOTAL CE HOURS		

- MG hours are recorded and submitted to ISU annually. We ask that you photocopy and turn this form in to the Volunteer Coordinator (bcmg50036@gmail.com) before November 1 each year. These figures are submitted to the State MG coordinator for statewide MG data collection. After reports are made, this form stays in your MG file for future reference.
- If needed, hours may be collected until December 31 for graduation and awards purposes at the county level. Six hours annually.