
Boone County ISU Extension

Master Gardener Update

Volume 12, Issue 3

March 2008



Next Meeting:

*Wednesday, March 11, E.O.
Program 7 p.m., Meeting follows*

Program:

*Connie Colle presents Gardens of
Norway & Sweden*

Connie will bring treats and drink.

Message from the Chair:

Sorry this newsletter is a little late. Linda has been really busy at work and I am just starting to feel better after several weeks of being ill. Minutes will be dealt with next month.

Connie always does a fantastic job with her presentations (and treats, too). Be sure to join us on Tuesday night. Bring a friend, too! Shouldn't be too much business this month either.

Remember to start thinking about summer projects and what you want to help with or organize.

I ran into James Romer and he said our MG's (Karen Grout, Jean Rhodes, Janeann Stout, and Ken Walter) did a great job as group leaders for the Class on Campus in February. Thanks for representing BCMG!!

Thank goodness for Books and Garden Catalogs to help us get through this long, cold winter.

--Melanie Erickson

Calendar of Activities

March

7-8—4-H Pancake Fundraiser, Comm Building, Fairgrounds

10—CIWGA Meeting, 7 p.m., Reiman Gardens, Making Willow Garden Furniture

11—Meeting, 7 p.m., EO, Connie Colle, Gardens of Norway & Sweden

11-12—Shade Tree Short Course, ISU

15—Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast, 9 a.m., Iowa Arboretum, \$6/person

16-18—Iowa Flower Lawn and Garden Show, Iowa State Fairgrounds, Varied Industries Building. Fri, 1-7; Sat 10-8; Sun 11-4, \$6.75/person.

20—Spring Equinox, 5:48 a.m.

28—Soup Night, 4-7 p.m., Iowa Arboretum, \$5/person

April

10-11—Garden Design Program at the Arboretum.

??—Greenhouse Tours with Jim Jordan

22—Earth Day. *Bring group project ideas to the March meeting.*

25-26—Landscape Design Program at Arboretum

26—Spring Plant Sale, Arboretum, starts 9 a.m., Free and Open to the Public

28—Soup Supper, Arboretum, 4-7, \$5

May

8—Meeting & Potluck, Iowa Arboretum, Rae Von Holdt, Gardens of England

31—Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Boone, 9-11 a.m.

June

21—Rose Festival, Reiman Gardens

July

11-12—MG Summer Session, ISU Campus

16-21—Boone County Fair

August

7-17—Iowa State Fair

Iowa Arboretum

<http://iowaarboretum.org/>

Programs count towards continuing education

Conifer Mini-Symposium (MG)

Saturday, March 29, 8:30-Noon

Topics of interest include “Beyond Green: A Short List of Colorful Conifers”, “Caring for Your Conifers: Diseases and Insects Pests”, and “Know Your Conifers: A Guide to Conifer Identification”. Weather-permitting, this will include a walk through the conifer collections of the Arboretum. Registration is a must for the mini-symposium.

\$25/members; \$30 non-members.

Before and After Group

Tuesday, April 1; June 3 & August 5

Iowa Arboretum is excited to announce their newest series concentrated on “before and after” change in participants own yards. The second session will be held on June 3, and the final one on August 5. The finished product of one participant will be pictured in a future issue of Iowa Gardening.

Registration is a must - call to reserve your space today! \$30.00

Plant Sale & Auction

Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Green Tie Affair! The Early Bird Plant Sale begins at 5:00 p.m. on Friday followed by wine and hors d’oeuvres at 6:00 p.m. The live auction will start at 6:30 p.m. If you have an unusual plant or garden accessory you would like to donate to this year’s auction, please call 515-795-3216. Early Bird Plant Sale and Auction costs \$10 for non-members and is free for members. The plant sale on April 26 starts at 9 a.m. and is free to attend and open to the public.



Spring Equinox Arrives March 20th!!

An **equinox** in [astronomy](#) is that moment in time (not a whole day) when the center of the [Sun](#) can be observed to be directly above the [Earth's equator](#).

Reiman Gardens March Calendar of Events

Call 294-2710 for more information

12 – Youth Tour Guide Training, 9-Noon.

13 – Brown Bag Lunch, Noon, *The Gardening Husband: A Sport for Life* presented by Elvin McDonald, Meredith Publications. Free for Cohorts and free with admission for general public.

13 – Butterfly Wing Docent Training, 6 p.m.

19 – Outdoor Horticulture Training, 9-4.

April 22, 2008

Earth Day

If you have an idea or project the group could participate in, bring it to the March meeting.

Reiman Gardens renovations prompt schedule changes

Renovations under way at Reiman Gardens are prompting cancellation of some annual spring events this March. During the remodeling, which will improve several interior building spaces, the conservatory building and Butterfly Wing are temporarily closed. They are scheduled to reopen April 5. As a result, the Gardens is unable to host several early spring events, including the 2008 Spring Fling, Egg Hunt, Easter Brunch and the March Botany Lunch.

Renovations include improvements to the gift shop and creation of a dedicated classroom space. Existing space will be remodeled to form a ballroom to seat up to 300.

"We've already started planning the Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt for 2009," said Teresa McLaughlin, Reiman Gardens director. "These are two of our most popular, family events and next year they'll be better than ever!"

Several special events are planned for the end of April to celebrate Arbor Day, showcase the building improvements and kick off the 2008 Novel Garden theme year.

"With the improved building spaces, several more family events are planned for 2009. The Gardens appreciate your understanding and patience as it goes through the construction phase," McLaughlin said.

When the conservatory and butterfly wing reopen April 5, the Gardens will be open seven days a week until December 31. Daily hours will be 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. And, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, evening hours will be extended.

Des Moines Botanical Center Events

April 19, 2008	Gardeners Show House: COLOR The Master Gardener's Spring Color Gardens in the Show House: Celebrating orange, blue, white, yellow, purple, red, green and pink.
April 19-20, 2008, 10:00am-5:00pm	Spring Bonsai Show The Iowa Bonsai Assn annual spring show in the grand walk of the Show House. Their web site: www.iabonsai.org
April 19, 2008, 10:00am	Leaf Casting for Garden Art and Ornament A hands-on workshop with Mary Beth Day; \$25.00 fee. Greenhouse 4. Reservations required: 515-323-6265 or ajordan@botanicalcenter.com
April 19, 2008, 11:00am	Make a Hypertufa Trough for Dwarf Conifers and Miniature Plants A hands-on work shop with Ronda Harris; \$25.00 fee. Greenhouse 4. Reservations required: 515-323-6265 or ajordan@botanicalcenter.com
April 19, 2008, 1:00pm	Building a Backyard Butterfly Habitat Presentation by Kathleen Ziemer who, with her husband Doug, owns Butterfliz of Iowa. Walsh Room.
May 3-4, 2008, 10:00am-5:00pm	Rose Sale The Volunteer Advisory Council is holding its 6th annual rose sale in the south greenhouse.
Saturday, May 3 8:00am-4:00pm and Sunday, May 4 11:00am-3:00pm.	2008 Polk County Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale Looking for heirloom tomato plants, annuals, herbs, or perennials?

“TRUDI’S GARDEN”

Gardening Symposium

Featuring

Trudi Temple

From Hinsdale, Illinois

Sponsored by Dallas County Master Gardeners

Saturday, March 29, 2008

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Westview Church, 1155 Boone Drive, Waukee, IA 50263

For additional registration forms go to: www.extension.iastate.edu/dallas

"What I like best is making things beautiful" Trudi has done this and has one of the most well-known private gardens in the Chicago area. She is a self-taught gardener, who has developed countless techniques for making gardening easier. Beginning as a collector and stuffer, she would buy anything that would grow in her hardiness zone. Only then, would she worry about where to put it. Sound familiar? Discover how her understanding of a "strong visual tie between the sky, house & earth can create house-garden harmony"; a philosophy that seems to solve a myriad of gardening headaches.

Trudi's "guidelines for living include charity & forgiveness, service to others & persistence, persistence, persistence". It is with this sense of service that she found Market Day, a fund-raising corporation for schools now found in 19 states.

Her book, *Trudi's Gardens*, will be available for purchase and signing.

Please print the following to pre-register:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

County: _____

E-mail: _____

Make check for \$25.00 for symposium payable to: **Dallas County Master Gardeners**

Mail to: Dallas County Master Gardeners, 3285 Ashworth Road, Waukee, IA 50263 by March 25.

_____ Yes, I am purchasing/reserving ____ copy of “Trudi’s Garden” for \$30.00

Make check for \$30.00 “each book” payable to: **Dallas County Master Gardeners**

Mail to: Dallas County Master Gardeners, 3285 Ashworth Road, Waukee, IA 50263 by March 25.

Polk County Master Gardener's are on the road again!!

2008 Midwest Regional Master Gardener Conference In Milwaukee, WI

July 16 - 19, 2008 is the date of the next overnight Polk County Master Gardener trip. If you've traveled with us before you know that we always end up with a great group of traveling companions who love gardening, shopping at cool garden centers, eating and having fun!

The highlight of this year's trip is the 2008 Midwest Regional Master Gardener Conference. This conference is loaded with great speakers and workshops, plus an optional full day of garden tours.

Please register for the conference separately at the following website: <http://sewmg.encampus.com/>

Our tour bus will depart promptly at **6:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 16th** from the Walnut Hills Methodist Church parking lot (**12321 Hickman Drive** – next to Stew Hanson Dodge).

We will also be making a stop at the Williamsburg exit to pick up/drop off folks who find that more convenient than driving to Des Moines. If you would like to join us in Williamsburg (instead of meeting in Des Moines), please let us know when you send in your registration. We will contact you with additional details.

We will spend the morning traveling to **Janesville, WI to visit the Rotary Botanical Gardens**. We've been getting requests to visit this beautiful garden for years – now we finally have a chance to get there! We'll have lunch when we get there (included in the price of the tour), with lots of time to enjoy the gardens after lunch. Check out their website at: www.rotarygardens.org

After the Rotary Gardens the next stop will be at **K&W Nursery** in Janesville (www.kwgreenery.com). In addition to plants, K&W carries a large selection of garden art and gifts. (Both of the nurseries we plan to visit on this trip are mentioned in the latest issue of Midwest Living magazine!)

On Wednesday night we'll arrive in Milwaukee in time for a nice dinner at the Porterhouse Steakhouse (included in the price of the tour) and get you to the conference in time for the 8:00 opening reception. We have blocked rooms at the conference – **your room cost is included in the price of our trip** (see trip prices below).

Make sure that you **get registered for the conference on your own**. The conference lasts from Thursday morning to Saturday noon. You will have the opportunity to **sign up for all day garden tours on Thursday and a chicken/fish fry Thursday night. Be sure to look for these sign-ups on the website.** There will be an additional charge for each of these events. (NOTE: The High Ho Westward We Go trip visits the Rotary garden in Janesville, so you may wish to pick a different tour to avoid visiting the same garden twice).

Once the conference wraps up on Saturday, there are several places for lunch on your own and then we'll get back on the bus to head for home. Along the way we will stop at **The Flower Factory** in Stoughton, WI. They bill themselves as "Wisconsin's premiere hardy plant nursery". Find out more about them at: www.theflowerfactorynursery

We will grab a quick supper during on our way back to Des Moines (on your own) and we should return to the parking lot at approximately 10 PM Saturday evening.

*Bus and hotel reservations are included in the trip. Register by completing this form and submitting by mail with payment in full. Bus (and so our tour) capacity is 47. **Make sure that you register for the conference in Milwaukee separately on your own!***

POLK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER BUS TOUR REGISTRATION

Name _____ Phone # _____
Address _____
Email (optional) _____

Optional Williamsburg Pick-Up: _____

Please select your room choice

One person per room	_____ -	Trip Cost	\$500 each
Two people per room	_____ -	Trip Cost	\$330 each
Three people per room	_____ -	Trip Cost	\$275 each
Four people per room	_____ -	Trip Cost	\$250 each

List your roommates below:

Planning on attending the tour by yourself but don't want to pay the price of a single room? Let us know how many roommates you would like and we will do our best to meet your request.

Please assign me in a room based on my preferred number of roommates: _____

Mail this registration form with payment in full to:

Jeri McGinnis
3121 45th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50310-3525

Questions? Call Jeri McGinnis at 515-314-1326 (cell) or e-mail her at: jsmcginnis@netins.net.

A waiting list will be maintained by post mark date. No refunds unless a replacement is made from the waiting list.

Master Gardeners will receive Education Credits hours for this trip.

Tour Committee:

Mary Beth Day	Kathy Gocke	Jeri McGinnis
Beve Pous	Neil Barrick	Laurie Barrick