
Boone County ISU Extension

Master Gardener Update

Volume 12, Issue 4

April 2008



Next Meeting:
Thursday, April 17, 6:30 p.m.

Program: Greenhouse Tour
Krieger Greenhouse
1404 Division Street, Boone
Host: Jim Jordan

Bring friends or invite others who might be interested.

Hopefully the weather will be nice and we can have a short meeting outside following the tour.

Message from the Chair:

We can hope the weather will be warmer in another week so our greenhouse tour is great. It was certainly interesting several years ago when we toured. The meeting night is completely different since attendance on Tuesdays has been lagging. Between vacations and illness, it's been a busy February and March.

Does everyone have their seeds planted? Or are you still dreaming about getting outdoors? Seems like Spring will never arrive. I have declared a moratorium on buying new perennials this year. We'll see how long that lasts!!!

Larry and I are signed up for the last Landscape Design program. We're going to have to find another marital bonding project next year since this has kept us busy for two years.

Mike Kurtz is talking about Organic Gardening and Composting at the Madrid Garden Club Meeting on April 22 at 7 p.m. You're welcome to attend and you can use his talk as Continuing Education.

--Melanie Erickson

Boone Garden Club Looking for Speaker for October 6

Scott Thieben of the Boone Garden Club would like a BCMG to speak to their group on October 6. His first preference would be Landscape Design but other alternatives would be fine, too. Let Melanie know if you are willing to do this.

Master Gardener Summer Session Planned

On July 11 and 12 the first Master Gardener Summer Session will be held on the ISU campus. The schedule follows:

Friday, July 11, 2008

7:30 – 8:00 a.m. Registration (Horticulture Hall)
8:00 – 8:30 Welcome
8:30 – 11:45 Sessions
11:45 – 12:30 Lunch
12:30 – 3:45 Sessions
3:45 – 4:15 Break
4:15 – 6:45 Reiman Gardens
7:00 – 8:00 Dinner
8:00 – 10:00 Insect Scavenger Hunt
7:30 Load Vans for Hort. Research Station

Saturday, July 12, 2008

8:00 – 12:15 Sessions
12:45 Load Vans for Campus
12:15 - 12:45 Lunch
1:15 - 3:00 Sessions
3:00 - 3:15 Break
4:45 Evaluation - *Have a Safe Trip Home*
Registration fee is \$150 before May 16 and \$200 after May 16.

More information can be found at

http://www.mastergardener.iastate.edu/info/mgsummer_session08.pdf.

Madrid Garden Club Schedule

<http://www.madriowa.com/Community.html>

April 22 - 7 p.m. at the Madrid Historical Museum, "Organic Gardening" with Mike Kurtz, BCMG.

July 22 - Madrid Home beginning at 7 p.m. Melanie Erickson, BCMG, "Accessible Gardening" about how to garden without hurting joints, what tools to use, how to lighten pots vertical gardening etc.

Aug 25 - 7 p.m. at the Madrid Historical Museum, Sandy Gossman of Ames IA and will be on "Preparing for the Flower Show" Sandy will give design ideas to go along with the flower show program, will remind us how to prepare our horticulture entries and answer questions about entering our items in our flower show.

Aug 30--Madrid Garden Club Flower Show will be held at the Madrid Historical Museum.

Sept 23 - Meeting time is 7 p.m. at the Madrid Historical Museum. "Prairie Restoration" with the speaker Danielle Worth. Danielle is a professor at DMACC and is very active in Prairie Restoration.

Oct 28 - 7 p.m. at the Madrid Historical Museum. "Wandering the Wild Lands: Native Plants in the American Garden" presented by Kelly Norris who is the farm manager of Rainbow Iris Farm in Bedford Iowa; contributing editor of 'Garden and Greenhouse'; editor of 'Dwarf Iris Society of America' Kelly has spoken to our club before we look forward to his return.

Calendar of Activities

April

10-11—Garden Design Program at the Arboretum.
17-Krieger Greenhouse Tour with Jim Jordan, 6:30 p.m.

22—Madrid Garden Club Meeting, Mike Kurtz, BCMG, Speaker (see article)

25-26—Landscape Design Program at Arboretum (see attached)

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

28—Soup Supper, Arboretum, 4-7, \$5

May

3—Madrid Garden Club Annual Plant Sale.

8—Tri-Garden Club Meeting & Potluck, Iowa Arboretum, Rae Von Holdt, Gardens of England. We have been invited to attend and enjoy Rae's talk.

10—Story County MG Plant Sale, Reiman Gardens Maintenance Shed.

17—Story County MG Plant Sale, Extension Office, Nevada.

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

June

7—Story County Annual Garden Walk

21—Rose Festival, Reiman Gardens

July

11-12—MG Summer Session, ISU Campus

16-21—Boone County Fair

19—Boone County Fair Hort Show

22—Madrid Garden Club Meeting, Melanie Erickson, BCMG Speaker (see article)

August

7-17—Iowa State Fair

30—Madrid Garden Club Annual Flower Show, Madrid Historical Museum

Story County Master Gardeners New Web Site

Lisa Harmison of the Story County MG's has been working on a new web site. It's located at <http://www.storymg.org>. Check it out for more detailed information.

Their meetings are held at 7 p.m. at Hughes Auditorium, Reiman Gardens. Upcoming meeting information:

April 21—Bug Collecting 101

ISU Entomology graduate students will demonstrate how to collect insects and pin them for a display. Master gardeners are asked to collect insects found in their yards and gardens over the spring and summer. We'll bring the insects to the September meeting for part two.

May 19—Show & Tell

Members are asked to share gardening related stories, books, magazines, or whatever else you've discovered about plants with the rest of the group. More details of this will be forthcoming but you can start thinking about tips, techniques or other bits of wisdom.

June 16—Care and Maintenance of Golf Courses

Jeff Wendell, executive director of the Iowa Turfgrass Institute, will present on the care and maintenance issues of a golf course. The program is tentatively scheduled to be held at Reiman Gardens, however, if possible, we will tour a local golf course instead.

Iowa Arboretum

<http://iowaarboretum.org/>

Programs count towards continuing education

Volunteer Workdays

Thursday, April 25

Friday, April 25

Both days start at 9:00 a.m. Stay as long as you like. Bring a sack lunch if you plan to stay all day. Counts toward MG volunteer hours.

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 p.m. on Friday followed by wine and hors d'oeuvres at 6 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.

Reiman Garden Calendar of Events

Call 515-294-2710 for more information on any of these events.

GARDEN RAILROAD VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Saturday, April 19 from 9 to 11 a.m. OR Saturday, May 3 from 9 to 11 a.m.

If you love trains, miniature plants and talking to people we'd love your help in our display for this summer. Volunteers are needed weekdays and weekends to interpret our new garden railroad display in the Children's Garden. Responsibilities include encouraging proper etiquette of guests, keeping trains on track, and setting up and taking down the trains. Shifts are 10 a.m. to noon, noon to 2 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. This year's Garden Railroad will be built to reflect the time period described in the Laura Ingalls Wilder novel, *Little House in the Big Woods*. Please call 294-8225 if interested.

GARDEN RAILROAD ASSISTANTS NEEDED

Several "assistants" are needed to fill in the extra hours not covered by volunteers from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day (trains open to public 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). All "assistants" will need to rotate weekends and work at least 20 hours per week (or more if they'd like). This person must love talking with people, have a positive personality, be willing to learn about trains and horticulture, do simple garden maintenance, be

dependable, be able to stand for long periods of time, and be available to work weekends and weekdays as needed. Pay is \$7.25 per hour and will start Memorial Day through Labor Day. Must be able to attend training on either Saturday, April 19 from 9 to 11 a.m. OR Saturday, May 3 from 9 to 11 a.m. Please call Lisa at 294-7569 if interested or download an application at the following [link](#). This position is open to ages 14 and up - a great summer job for students.

YOUTH TOUR GUIDE TRAINING

April 15 from 1-3 p.m

During the spring and fall months, schools from around Iowa visit the Gardens for tours lasting 1-2 hours. As a result, we need many trained guides. Guides lead groups ranging in size from 1-15 students depending on the age of the group. If you are interested in this position, please let Pat know. We can certainly use your expertise. Call Pat at 292-8225.

Outdoor Horticulture Training, April 22, 9-Noon

April 10, 7 p.m., Arrangement of the Month

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett - Presented by Sandy Gossman, Ames Garden Club
In 2008 we are celebrating literature in the Garden with the theme year entitled, *A Novel Garden*. Join us as we create a unique floral arrangement to take home with

local florists and floral designers inspired by classic and contemporary books and stories.

Cost: \$25 CoHorts' members/\$30 General Public

Pre-registration and payment is required

Sign up for to do all six today and receive a 20% discount! CoHorts \$120/ General Public \$144.

Brown Bag Lunch, Noon

Thursday, April 10, *New Plants Revisited* presented by Marcia Leeper, Garden Gate Magazine
Free for CoHorts' members; price of admission for general public.

Thursday, May 8

Container Gardening for Dummies presented by Carolyn Magnani, Piney Ridge Nursery

Thursday, June 12, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.

Complete Guide to Roses presented by Veronica Fowler, Garden Author

April 12

Master Gardener Presents: Rain Gardens and Native Plants

Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

The first in a series of programs sponsored by the Story County Master Gardener Association

In Iowa, rainfall averages anywhere from 28-36" per year, a half acre urban lot in central Iowa receives approximately of 434,500 gallons of rain each year (a little less in western Iowa; a little more in eastern Iowa).

Unless you are capturing this rain on your property (lawns shed 70% of water, impervious surfaces 100%), the rain is moving off in what is called runoff. This runoff contributes to water quality degradation and flood potentials. Runoff that leaves your city lot usually goes into a storm sewer and heads directly to a stream, river, pond or lake without any treatment. Runoff from your roof, driveway or yard will be carrying pollutants such as hydrocarbons, heavy metals, sediment, bacteria, grass clippings, floatable litter and nutrients. Rain gardens are an infiltration-based storm water management practice. By installing rain gardens homeowners can create landscapes that add beauty and interest to a yard while helping manage storm water more sustainably. Rain gardens are a key practice for creating landscapes that are both beautiful and hydrologically functional – that is - they hold and infiltrate rainfall rather than generating runoff that causes water quality problems and contributes to flooding. (Iowa Rain Garden Manual 2008). Join Anita Maher-Lewis and Inger Lamb from Prairie Rivers RC&D to learn background on storm water, creating a functioning rain garden for your landscape

and identifying and selecting Iowa native plants for the rain garden. We will use the gardens in the Town and Country Gardens in Reiman Gardens as practice examples so please dress for the weather.

Cost: \$5 CoHorts/\$8 General Public

April 16

Garden Book Club

April 16, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.

Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv

Presented by Jim Pease

Enjoy fascinating books and participate in intriguing conversation in a beautiful garden setting.

Join faculty at Iowa State University as they discuss books about various aspects of gardening, nature, and the Ames community. Never before in history have children been so plugged and so out of touch with the natural world. In this groundbreaking new work, child advocacy expert Richard Louv directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today's wired generation - he calls it nature-deficit disorder - to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, such as rises in obesity, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), and depression. Parents have the power to ensure that their daughter or son will not be the "last child in the woods" and this book is the first step toward that nature-child reunion.

Lunch includes seasonal pasta salad, house-made potato chips, fresh cookie, water or soda (Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite), and choice of sandwich.

Cost: free for CoHorts' members; price of admission for general public. Cost with lunch: \$10 for CoHorts' members; \$17 for general public. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required for lunch.

Willow Fish Workshop

Saturday, April 19, 2008 at 9 a.m.

Join artists Pam Dennis and Ryk Weiss and construct a willow fish for your garden inspired by the novel *Moby Dick*.

The workshops scheduled for April 4th and 5th have already filled! So we have decided to add another date. We received a grant to cover most of costs for first two dates, but for this third date, we have to cover all the costs. Since the cost is more, however, you will be able to take the willow fish you make home with you that day.

If you are interested registering or if you have signed up for April 4th or 5th and want to switch dates to take it home with you that day, please give us a call. We have to have at least 12 people to make this third workshop a success, so sign up early.

Participants need to bring anvil pruning shears, a small hammer, small wire cutters, and, if desired, light

garden gloves. All other materials are provided and included in the class fee.

Cost: \$40 CoHorts' members/\$50 General Public. Pre-registration and payment is required.

April 25

ARBOR DAY AND GRAND REOPENING

On Friday, April 25, Reiman Gardens hosts the grand opening with ribbon cutting of new event and conference space. They are also will be celebrating Arbor Day and the spring kick-off of their 2008 theme year, "A Novel Garden". The theme year, intended as a double entendre, interweaves the plants of Reiman Gardens with scenes and characters from works of classic literature. There will be free admission all day (9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). In celebration of Arbor Day and the spring season, guests can participate in a tree planting celebration, tour the Gardens including a beautiful tulip display in the Campanile Garden based on *The Color Purple*, explore the *Peter Pan* display in the Conservatory, and visit the Butterfly Wing. Visitors also will have the opportunity to see Reiman Gardens' new rental space, classroom, office suite, and get a sneak peek of the new gift shop space.

April 26, 2008

On April 26th from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Reiman Gardens will be selling used garden books and some garden props in celebration of our new 2008 theme year, "A Novel Garden". Now starts the hunt for these used books.

We need help in several capacities:

- Donation of garden books from your own collection. These can include adult and children's books, garden magazines, cookbooks, posters, etc. All should have a garden or environmental focus.

- Volunteers to help find used garden books. We need some inventive people to seek out used books outside their homes – maybe visit book stores, churches, neighbors, family, etc.

- Volunteers to help us organize all the books and help price them for the sale. We will do this in late March.

- Volunteers for the day before and the day of the sale.

We are attempting to collect donations by March 21st. You may bring them to the Mahlstede Building during the week from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you cannot come during these hours please give us a call, and we'll arrange a special time...or maybe a special pick-up if you have a several books. Please contact Lisa Orgler at lorgler@iastate.edu or 294-7569 if you have any questions.

Then join us on April 26th to browse the Gardens Book and Props Sale.

2008 Rose Presale

The rose sale held each year at the Rose Festival continues to gain success. As a benefit to its CoHorts' members, Reiman Gardens is offering a rose presale for Buck roses and Easy Elegance® roses. All of the roses take minimal care and are very disease resistant.

Orders will be taken from Friday, February 1, 2008 until Sunday, April 27, 2008, and roses may be picked up the day of the sale or earlier by appointment with Sarah Rummery (srummery@iastate.edu or 294-2710).

Pre-Sale roses are \$17.50. Roses the day of the sale (Saturday, June 21, 2008) will be \$20. Roses must be pre-paid to get the discounted price. To take advantage of the presale you must be a Reiman Gardens' CoHorts' member.

COSTA RICA OR EUROPE: HELP US DECIDE

Reiman Gardens is considering organizing and offering a tour for patrons and CoHorts' members. Our two options are Costa Rica or Europe. We'd like to gauge feedback from those who are interested in joining the tour, but no confirmation or commitment is required. Click [here](#) to complete a very short survey about which trip you'd prefer and other opinions you have to share with us.

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.

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.

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.

Other Happenings

BRENTON AUDITORIUM –

Contact Kay Meyer at The Brenton Arboretum for more information and to pre-register. Call 515-992-4211 or email

kay@thebrentonarboratum.org.

Nature play; How to Lead Children into Nature

Saturday, April 12th & 19th
8:00 AM until 4:30 PM

This accredited workshop is designed for educators, care providers and families and will demonstrate how to organize and lead children on successful, outside trips to natural areas.

Heartland AEA license renewal credit and Drake University graduate credit is available. The cost for the class for participants not receiving credit is \$35.00. The complete curriculum can be found at [AEA Heatland Course Catalog](#).

Earth Day Party

Sunday, April 22nd, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

We have everything you need to celebrate; kites, willow crowns, tadpole nets and Willowglobe II.

Arbor Day Tree Planting

Saturday, April 26th, 10:00 AM – 12 Noon

Learn how roots grow to form the foundation of growth for the entire life of your tree.

Des Moines Botanical Center Events

April 19, 2008	Gardeners Show House: COLOR The MG'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
May 3-4, 2008, 10:00am-5:00pm	Rose Sale The Volunteer Advisory Council is holding its 6th annual rose sale.
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?

Chichaqua Cache Bash

Never heard of geocaching or always wanted to give it a try? Or maybe you're a diehard cacher who is always looking for a challenge? Join Polk County Conservation on Saturday, April 19, in the search of 75 geocaches hidden in Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt as part of the Cache Bash special event. The event runs from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Bring your GPS (Global Positioning System) Unit to find the caches. A limited number of Garmin eTrex GPS units will be available for checkout. Participate as a one person, two person, or four person team with a chance to win prizes. Check-in at the Longhouse facility.

This special event is free to the public. An optional box lunch will be available for a \$7 fee with pre-registration. Pre-registration is required by April 11. All ages welcome. For more information or to register, contact Polk County Conservation at 515-323-5300.

Walk for Wildlife

Support Polk County's wildlife habitat by participating in Polk County Conservation's annual Walk for Wildlife on Saturday, April 26. All ages are welcome and family participation is encouraged. The event will take place at Jester Park. Participants may take part in a 10-Kilometer route or choose a shorter family route.

This event is a unique chance for you to get involved in helping protect Iowa's remaining habitat. All proceeds will be used to improve the quality and quantity of Polk County's habitat. With your \$12 registration fee, you will receive a one-of-a-kind t-shirt. Children under 12 are free, but will not receive a t-shirt. Individuals that register after April 11, will be required to pay a \$15 registration fee.

Walkers can begin between 8-11 a.m. When arriving at the park, participants should report to Shelter #3 to register. To pre-register, call (515)-323-5300. Call this number for detailed directions or log on to the Conservation website at www.leadingyououtdoors.org. This walk is co-sponsored by the Greater Des Moines Volkspor Association.

MASTER GARDENER 2007 BUS TOUR

Saturday, June 7, 2008

We have a great one day trip planned to visit the Iowa City/Cedar Rapids area. Our day includes visits to two fabulous private gardens, two great garden centers and one beautiful public garden.

- Getting started: Park your car in the north parking area at Walnut Hills Methodist United Methodist Church – 12321 Hickman Road, Urbandale (Next to Stew Hansen Dodge) and board the chartered bus. We will depart from the parking lot at 6:30 a.m.
- First stop: Iowa City Landscaping is one of the favorite garden centers in the Iowa City area. Check out their website at: www.iowacitylandscaping.com
- Next, we'll visit a private garden in the Iowa City area. This woodland garden should be beautiful in June. Check out the garden owner's blog at: <http://iowagarden.blogspot.com/>
- After a busy morning, we will be ready for a break with a picnic lunch near the Coralville Lake. Lunch is included in the price of the tour.
- We will travel to Cedar Rapids for our next stop – a visit to an amazing private garden. We've been told that this garden is near the top of the list of the "must see" gardens in the state. The garden covers a few acres of land, so wear your walking shoes!
- One of our private tour hosts suggested that we make a stop at the Cedar River Garden Center – so that is the next stop on our agenda. Visit their website at: www.cedarrivergardencenter.com
- Next we will make a quick supper stop at the Tanger outlet mall (on your own).
- The final stop of the day is a visit to the Newton Arboretum. The arboretum is about 3 acres of gardens, native trees, shrub roses, ornamental grasses and annual and perennial beds.
- Time to head for home. We hope to be back in the parking lot by 9:00 p.m.

MASTER GARDENER JUNE 2008 BUS TOUR REGISTRATION – COST IS \$40

Name: _____ **Phone #** _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail this registration form with \$40 check made out to Polk Co. Master Gardeners 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.

Bus (tour) capacity is 55 people. Reservations will be taken in the order received. No refunds unless spot is filled from the waiting list.

Tour committee: Mary Beth Day, Jeri McGinnis, Kathy Gocke, Beve Pous, and Neil & Laurie Barrick