



*Upcoming Programs/Meeting:  
May 8, Tri-Garden Club Potluck,  
Arboretum (contact Teresa D for times)*

*May 12, Rose Pruning, Boone Co.  
Hospital (meet in south courtyard),  
Bring pruners for hands-on experience.  
Meeting Follows.*

*Bring friends or invite others who might  
be interested.*

Message from the Chair:

It's been a long wait for Spring this year! The forsythia finally bloomed so we can spread crabgrass preventer. I finally got to mow at home and now we need to thatch and spread some seed. This winter was hard on our turfgrass out here. We bought four trees and got them planted within a week—that's a record!! My new resolution is to plant what I buy this year. I'm sure that will cut back on my purchases.

Gwen, Jim, Gary and I worked at the Family Resource Center last week. The city had cut back most of the perennials and grasses which saved us a lot of work. We concentrated on getting color in the courtyard for their open house. We'll be mulching there in the next 2-3 weeks. Jim's going to stop in and peek at the plantings occasionally.

Deanna's going to plan a tour to Parthenon Gardens near Minburn this summer. Watch the newsletter for more details.

Mike Kurtz spoke to the Madrid Garden Club in April and I'll be speaking to them in July. Send email to bcmg50036 or let Linda or me know if you have represented BCMG's in any way so we can include it in the newsletter to share with our other members.

--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.

## Calendar of Activities

### May

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.

12—Meeting & Rose Pruning Demonstration, Boone County Hospital, 6:30 p.m.

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  
Parthenon Gardens Tour

21—Rose Festival, Reiman Gardens

### July

Tour of Lynnette Carpenter's Gardens & MG Meeting

11-12—MG Summer Session, ISU Campus

16-21—Boone County Fair

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

19—Boone County Fair Hort Show

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

### August

7-17—Iowa State Fair

19—Brushy Creek Tour and MG Meeting.

## Story County MG Plant Sales in May

The SCMGA will hold two plant sales this year. The plant sales feature master gardener perennial divisions, select hosta, perennial and grass varieties, hanging baskets, planted containers as well as plants for containers, select annual seedlings, heritage tomatoes, house plants and a garage sale section.

The first sale is May 10 from 8 AM till 2 PM at Reiman Gardens in Ames. The second plant sale is May 17 from 8 AM till Noon at Christie Hall in the Story County Extension office in Nevada. Proceeds support the horticulture scholarship program, the Story County library book program, horticulture grants, the Master Gardener information tent, MG educational programs and other various gardening projects.

For more information contact: Craig Seymour  
[LandCSeymour@aol.com](mailto:LandCSeymour@aol.com).

## Plan Your 2008 Fair Entries

Check out the new 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 19-20, 2008

<http://www.boonecountyfairia.com/openclass.htm/08OpenClassBook.pdf>

## Online Plant Guide & Free Database

Retired Extension Horticulturist, Thomas E. Pope, PhD, and colleague, Neil Odenwald, PhD, retired head of School of Landscape Architecture at LSU, spent several years making digital images of plants for the home garden. These were made over the entire country -- Florida to Washington and Maine to California. With endless hours of work, this has now evolved into a NATIONAL plant data base launched on the internet April 22, 2008:  
<http://www.onlineplantguide.com>

There are over 8,000 images online at present and more than 2,000 waiting to be added. Approximately 2800 plant species are represented at this time with extensive cultural information on each. All is FREE to any person registering on the site. In developing this, Master Gardeners were one of prime audiences targeted. This site is very user friendly and has extensive search features.

## 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 was in the April newsletter.

More information can be found at  
<http://www.mastergardener.iastate.edu/info/mgsummersession08.pdf>.

## Iowa Arboretum

<http://iowaarboretum.org/>

Programs count towards continuing education

## Growing Miniature Vegetables

May 13, 2008 (6:30 pm)

(General)

Miniature vegetables are gaining popularity because of their adorable appearance, sweet flavor and delicate texture. James Romer will present this program about growing miniature vegetables. He will discuss different vegetable varieties, growing requirements, and harvesting times. Each participant will receive plants to take home.

**Fee:** \$10 for members; \$12 for non-members

## Stone Face Workshop

May 29, 2008 (6:30 pm)

Are you looking for a fun way to bring some more interest to your yard or home? If so, join us at Iowa Arboretum for our Stone Face Workshop. We will have all of the supplies whether you want to turn your creation into a stone face planter, bookend, or wall hanging and guide you through the process. You will even get to take the re-useable kit home with you! This class would be fun for adults or for children accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required. Call 515-795-3216 to reserve your space.

**Fee:** \$22 for members; \$25 for non-members

## Reiman Garden Calendar of Events

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

### Arrangement of the Month

Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott - Presented by Barb Osborn, Dept. of Horticulture, Iowa State University

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.

### Brown Bag Lecture

May 8, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.

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.

*Container Gardening for Dummies* presented by Carolyn Magnani, Piney Ridge Nursery  
Free for CoHorts' members; price of admission for general public.

### Treat Mother to a Day at the Gardens

All mothers admitted to Reiman Gardens free on May 11, with complimentary carnations upon departure (while supplies last), compliments of Exchange State Bank. No proof of children required. Gardens open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Enjoy the sounds of cello soloist, Mert Sermet, during a fabulous brunch served 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. with an all-inclusive price that includes admission. Brunch information was in the April newsletter.

Pre-registration and payment preferred by calling Reiman Gardens at 515-294-2710 or [reimangardens@iastate.edu](mailto:reimangardens@iastate.edu).

### Brown Bag Lecture

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

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.

*Complete Guide to Roses* Veronica Fowler, Garden Author  
Free for CoHorts' members; price of admission for general public.

### Father's Day

June 15, 2008

All father's will get free admission and a gift.  
Free for CoHorts' members and fathers; price of admission for guests

### Rose Festival & Iowa Rose Society Annual Rose Show

June 21, 2008

Activities include a rose sale, rose activities, and the judging of the Iowa Rose Society Annual Rose Show.  
More information to come.

## Other Happenings

**Don't forget the Polk County MG Bus Tour on June 7. Information and registration were included in the April newsletter.**

### Bickelhaupt Arboretum Announces Free Guided Tours

The Bickelhaupt Arboretum is announcing free guided tours of the fourteen acre outdoor museum of plants every Saturday and Sunday at 2 PM beginning May 3. The Arboretum offered guided

tours for groups of twenty or more on a regular basis in the past. Visitors are asked to meet at the Gathering Place, directly west of the Parking Lot. Reservations are not expected for the tour; however, if an electric cart is needed for the convenience of those who might not be able to walk through the collections, advance arrangements are necessary. Please call the Arboretum office (563) 242-4771 by noon Friday, if an electric cart is needed and a volunteer will be contacted to drive for the tour. For more information visit: <http://www.bickarb.org/>