



## *Upcoming Programs/Meeting:*

**August 19 - Brushy Creek Prairie Tour, Lehigh, 6:30 p.m.**

**Program & Tour by Bill Johnson, DNR Biologist**

*Directions from Boone. Take County blacktop R-21 north thru Stratford across the Boone River. Turn left (west) at County blacktop D-46, continue about 3.5 miles. Turn (right) north onto Brushy Creek road (the turn is at the bottom of a large hill). Go north 1 mile and the Prairie Resource Center is at the top of the hill on the right side of the road.*

*(Meet at 5:40 p.m. to ride share from the HyVee Parking Lot in Boone. Park where the greenhouse used to be. Let Melanie know if you are planning to go (230-4547 or melerickson@signatureblue.com)*

**September 11, 6:30 p.m. - Tour & Meeting**

**Melanie Erickson's Gardens**

**889 R Avenue, Boone**

*Directions: 2 miles East of Boone on E-26, then .1 miles north on R, or 3.1 miles north of Hwy 30 on R. (yellow house)*

## Arboretum Butterfly Garden Needs TLC

If you're interested in helping in the Butterfly Garden at the Arboretum, contact Teresa Davenport at 432-0050 or [tdavenport@galynx.com](mailto:tdavenport@galynx.com).

## Message from the Chair:

Hi Everyone. I think we've had a great summer despite all the rain and weeds. Gwen Schwestka has done a remarkable job at United Community Schools. She's received lots of plant donations and help. If you're interested in helping her, give her a call at 309-1454 or email her at [gwenms@msn.com](mailto:gwenms@msn.com).

Deanna did a great job planning the stops on our July garden tour. We almost had anxiety attacks by the time we arrived at Flying Frog to buy hostas. It was a wonderful day. We tried the Sunday brunch at The Radish last week and it was very good.

Fair went off without a hitch. Experienced BCMG's made everything work smoothly. Yvonne Nilles gave us great education hours and judging again. I was amazed when I went back to the fair on Sunday. Every daylily with a red ribbon was not blooming on Sunday--which doesn't make for a very nice show. I'm beginning to understand! We also need to thank Kyle Hurley for making us new display blocks.

Bill Johnson, DNR Biologist will give us a prairie tour at Brushy Creek in Lehigh. He says the hummingbirds are feeding and the flowers are blooming. Hope you can join us. Thanks, Teresa D, for making the arrangements.

Sue Henze and Nan Ripley had great daylily sales that many of us contributed to. I'm excited for next year so I can see all the added flowers. Cindy B and I attended the hybridizing workshop at Nan's which was a lot of fun.

Be sure to join either Connie, Janice or me at the Farm Progress Show. Information is in a separate article.

--Melanie Erickson

## FRC Work Nights Planned

- Wednesday, September 3, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, September 18, 6 p.m.

The FRC will be having their open house and gazebo dedication in early October so we should do a little weeding, pruning and cleanup. If it's all spiffed up by the second night, we'll just go out to eat or something!!!

## MG's did well in Fair Floriculture Show

Several MG's participated in the Open Class Floriculture Show at the Boone County Fair. Gina Christians received Best of Show for her patio container and Greg Anderson won the Education Award for his patio container. James Romer was our only Story County entrant and he received the Sweepstakes Award for the most blue ribbons.

Other BCMG's who exhibited were Cindy Burgar, Connie Colle, Teresa Davenport, Melanie Erickson, and Mike Kurtz. We were quite well organized this year and had the 400+ exhibits ready for the judge at noon. In 2005 we had 200+ entries, 300+ entries in 2006, and 400+ in 2007. The vegetable entries were down but the flower entries were almost identical to 2007.



BCMG 2008 Open Class Floriculture Show volunteers: Melanie Erickson, Cindy Burgar, Mike Kurtz, Connie Colle, Teresa Davenport and Gina Christians. This must have been early in the day when we were still smiling and not in pain!!!

## Extension Needs MG Volunteers

The Farm Progress Show will be held August 26, 27 and 28 near Boone. Extension needs volunteers to help staff the Master Gardener display. Duties include answering questions about the Master Gardener program (what is it, who can participate, how/where to sign up) and other horticultural questions. There are 2 shifts per day 7:30AM-12:15PM and 12:15PM-5:00PM. Up to 2 volunteers per shift will be needed. Admission and parking will be provided. If you are interested, please send an email to [jromer@iastate.edu](mailto:jromer@iastate.edu).

## Farm Progress Show in Boone – Come Listen to MG Talks

Visit <http://www.farmprogressshow.com/> to find out about the Farm Progress Show coming to Boone County. Connie, Melanie, and Janice will be speaking about gardening from 9-10 each day in the Rural Iowa Tent. Come to the Farm Progress show to Watch and to check out everything else out—new equipment, buildings, wind energy (I hope), and, of course, food. If you order online, tickets are \$7 and you can print it right off to take with you.

### Boone County Master Gardeners' Present . . .

--Tuesday, 8/26: Connie Colle: "*You Don't Need A Green Thumb to Garden*" will feature useful information for choosing and combining the best plants for size, color, and sun exposure. Learn to create an easy to use maintenance plan for your selections. Connie has been a Master Gardener since 1999 and is a horticulture student at Iowa State University.

--Wednesday, 8/27: Janice Schlicht: "*Gardening under Adverse Conditions*" will give useful information about gardening when you have heat, wind and water. Janice has been a Master Gardener since 1996 and lives southwest of Beaver. She and her husband, Dick, have opened their garden retreat, Inspiration Gardens, to the public.

--Thursday, 8/28: Melanie Erickson: "*Tips to Make Gardening More Accessible*" will offer tips and information to make gardening easier as we age and have other health conditions. Melanie has been a Master Gardener since 1995 and lives on an acreage outside of Boone.

The Rural Life Tent Show Schedule can be found at <http://www.farmprogressshow.com/ME2/Audiences/dir/mod.asp?sid=43043A43AB344FF5BB94986079527062&type=gen&mod=Core+Pages&gid=80167A7B1E2D4AE4A8DF493078616D5F&AudID=969FF84511AA4E67A31594D869EEA3AB>

Tickets cost \$7-10 and can be ordered and printed online. It's a very slick process.

## Garden Tip

Fill a large pot or bucket with dry leaves and by using a weed whacker you can almost instantly shred the leaves into a mulch or compost amendment. The pot or bucket makes it easy to pour the leaves exactly where I need them.

--Mike Kurtz, BCMG

## Boone has MG Training in the Fall

Following is the schedule for the Fall '08 Master Gardener Training class. Please talk with family, friends and colleagues about registering for the class. There are about 40 hours of education in return for 40 hours of volunteer time. There is a fee of \$125 for books and supplies. The EO does have some scholarship funds available if needed. Send their name, address, and email to Rich at the EO.

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. You can attend the MG Training classes for continuing education if there are seats available.

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

| Date  | Topic                          | Speaker                      |
|-------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 9/9   | Introduction                   | EO Directors                 |
| 9/16  | Botany/Plant Propagation/Soils | Eldon Everhart & James Romer |
| 9/18  | Herbaceous Ornamentals         | James Romer                  |
| 9/23  | Landscape Trees & Shrubs       | Jeff Iles                    |
| 9/25  | Houseplants                    | Cindy Haynes                 |
| 9/30  | Turfgrass Mgmt                 | Dave Minner                  |
| 10/2  | IPM & Pesticides               | Donald Lewis                 |
| 10/7  | Animal Ecology                 | Jason O'Brien                |
| 10/9  | Vegetables                     | Steve Wright                 |
| 10/14 | Fruit Culture                  | Paul Domoto                  |
| 10/21 | Plant Pathology & Entomology   | Mark Gleason & Donald Lewis  |
| 10/25 | Saturday Class on Campus       | Various                      |
| 10/27 | Home Landscape Design          | Anne Marie VanDerZanden      |
| 11/1  | Saturday Class on Campus       | Various                      |

## Calendar of Activities

### August

7-17—Iowa State Fair

19—Brushy Creek Tour and MG Meeting.

Bill Johnson, Biologist

Iowa DNR Prairie Resource Center

2820 Brushy Creek Road

Lehigh, IA 50557 515-543-8319

26-28—Farm Progress Show, Boone

### September

11—Tour of Melanie Erickson's Gardens & MG Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### November

11—MG Graduation and Potluck, Community Building, 6 p.m.

## Member News

Connie Colle will speak to the Boone Garden Club about landscape design on October 6.

Gary Craven has a new email, [g.craven@mchsi.com](mailto:g.craven@mchsi.com). Please change your email lists.

Melanie Erickson spoke to the Madrid Garden Club about Accessible Gardening. About ten people attended.



The Ogden Reporter featured Janice & Dick Schlicht and Inspiration Gardens in a recent issue. See the article at

[http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19727767&BRD=1842&PAG=461&dept\\_id=335645&rfti=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19727767&BRD=1842&PAG=461&dept_id=335645&rfti=6)

Gwen Schwestka has done a remarkable job at United Community Schools. She's received lots of plant donations and help. If you're interested in helping her, give her a call at 309-1454 or email her at [gwenms@msn.com](mailto:gwenms@msn.com).

Cool Website for Local Produce

<http://www.localharvest.org/>

## DES MOINES AREA EVENTS

### Emerald Ash Borer Identification Workshop

Wednesday, September 3, 9:00-11:30 AM

ISU Extension, Iowa DNR and the state entomologist office are conducting a bark peeling workshop at the Arboretum to train volunteers to test for evidence of an infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer. City, state and county forestry staff, landscapers and other nursery related personnel are invited to attend this free workshop. Registration is required. You can find more information and a [Registration form](#) at the ISU Extension Pest Management website.

#### The Brenton Arboretum

25141 260th St.  
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063  
515-992-4211

### Des Moines Botanical Center

September 5-14, 2008, Fall Festival & Bulb Mart  
[http://www.botanicalcenter.com/WebBulbList\\_5\\_29\\_07.pdf](http://www.botanicalcenter.com/WebBulbList_5_29_07.pdf)  
<http://www.botanicalcenter.com/FallFestivalBulbMartWebInfo.pdf>

### Discovery Garden Events

Part of a free educational series sponsored by Iowa State University Extension Master Gardeners. Classes held at 7 p.m. at the south entrance of the Agriculture Building. Bring a lawn chair! For more information, contact the ISU Polk County Extension Office, 515-261-4200.

Tuesday, September 9

“Best Plants for Shade” by Mel and Carol Visser,  
ISU Polk County Master Gardeners

## Iowa Arboretum

<http://iowaarboretum.org/> or email [info@iowaarboretum.org](mailto:info@iowaarboretum.org), 515-795-3216

Programs count towards continuing education

August 7–17

#### Volunteers needed for the Iowa Arboretum Booth at the Iowa State Fair

We can use all the help we can get! We will have four-hour shifts with a variety of jobs available. Admission to the fair is covered by Iowa Arboretum. Call 515-795-3216 to sign up!

Thursday, September 4, 6:30 p.m.

#### Herb Wreath Workshop

Join Heather Bass, Arboretum Horticulturist, and make a beautiful herb wreath. Wreath forms and plant materials will be furnished by the Arboretum. Bring pruners or sturdy scissors and gloves. Must preregister by phoning 515-795-3216. Fee: \$18 for members, \$20 for non-members.

SEPTEMBER 19

#### 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.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 9 a.m.

#### Ornamental Grasses Sale

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.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1 P.M.

#### Volunteer Workday

Help prepare the grounds for the upcoming winter season. Wear old clothes and gloves and bring your favorite garden tool. We can also provide some indoor projects. We will follow the afternoon activities with a wild game feed and potluck. We'll provide the wild game and beverages – bring a dish to share. (If you have some wild game you'd like to donate to the cause, give us a call at 515/795-3216!). Many hands make light work and we promise you won't go away hungry! We would like you to call and register so that we have an idea on numbers.

# Reiman Gardens

## Donate to Plant a Row for the Hungry

Mondays from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., Reiman Gardens

Plant a Row for the Hungry, a nationwide program, helps gardeners share excess produce with those in need. By planting an extra row, donating extra produce, or volunteering some time to support the effort, gardeners can make a difference in their communities. In 2007, the Story Country program collected more than 3,500 lbs. of fresh produce.

Collection for Plant a Row for the Hungry will be on Mondays at the Maintenance Building in the Reiman Gardens parking lot. Clean, quality fruits and vegetables are accepted, as well as any simple recipes for the collected produce.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer or has questions about the program, please contact Lisa Harmison, the Story Country coordinator, at the following:

Plant a Row for the Hungry  
2008 Campaign  
c/o Lisa Harmison  
2060 S. 500th Avenue  
Ames, IA 50014  
515/231-5926

## Reiman Seeks Weed Warriors

Reiman Gardens will hold "Weed Warrior" days, a new volunteer initiative to clear weeds from the gardens. The last date is Sept. 4 (9 a.m.-noon). Weed warriors may work any other weekdays. To volunteer, contact Aaron Steil, [ajsteil@iastate.edu](mailto:ajsteil@iastate.edu), 4-8953.

## CoHorts' Plant Sale

Saturday, August 23, 2008 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Reiman Gardens

Stop by the CoHorts' Plant sale to shop a large selection of perennials and grasses for late summer plantings, year-end nursery sale stock, colorful mums, houseplants, fall annuals and CoHort garden divisions. There will also be a garden décor section featuring yard art, pots, miscellaneous items and garden books.

Profits from the CoHorts' Plant Sale go back to the Gardens for special projects. The Reiman Gardens CoHorts is a member association whose mission is to support the gardens through volunteerism and fund raising.

The CoHorts are requesting donations of perennial divisions, garden pots, books and other garden items for their sale, plus boxes and bags for packaging. If interested in giving donations please contact Craig Seymour at 515.233.2636 or [landcseymour@aol.com](mailto:landcseymour@aol.com). If you are interested in volunteering that day, please contact Pat Kunz at 515.294.8225 or [patkunz@iastate.edu](mailto:patkunz@iastate.edu).

The CoHorts' Plant Sale will be held in the Maintenance Building in the Reiman Gardens parking lot.

## Brown Bag Lectures

Bring your lunch to the Reiman Gardens and enjoy an education program. Call 515-294-2710 for more information.

### September 11, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.

*Ten Great Gardens to See Before You Die* presented by Ann Marie VanDerZanden, Iowa State University Horticulture Department. Free for CoHorts' members; price of admission for general public.

### October 9, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.

*Discovering A Refuge in Your Backyard* presented by Linda Thomas, Wild Birds Unlimited. Free for CoHorts' members; price of admission for general public.

### November 13, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.

*Natural Holidays* presented by Sandy Gossman, Ames Garden Club. Free for CoHorts' members; price of admission for general public.