
Boone County ISU Extension Master Gardener Update

Volume 13, Issue 1

January 2009



Upcoming Programs/Meeting:

*Wednesday, January 14
7:00 p.m., Extension Office*

*Program: Pruning by Lynnette
Carpenter*

Message from the Chair:

It seems to have already been a long winter and it's on the first week of January. The garden catalogs have started arriving and I'm dreaming. This year I need to let my perennials grow and leap to see where I am. I can dream about the vegetable gardens this year!!!

A few of us met in December for the planning meeting. Thanks to those that braved the weather and to those who sent ideas in. If you have a summer tour idea, let me know. Also, let me know if you will present a program at one of our meetings or if you have a speaker idea. We need a program for February. Wednesday and Thursday nights seems to have the largest attendance for our members.

The Des Moines Botanical Center has some very interesting Saturday programs this winter. Might help keep away those winter blues. They count for MG continuing education hours. Be sure to start thinking about your six hours.

Hope you can join us at the EO on January 14 for Lynnette Carpenter's Pruning program. She wants us to be ready for the late winter pruning. Lynnette always has a great program and this, too, will count for CE hours.

--Melanie Erickson

Member News

Ken Walter was recognized by Reiman Gardens for volunteering 100-199 hours during their 2007-2008 year.

Thanks . . .

Thanks to Holly Cleppe and Gina Christians for organizing the wonderful potluck/graduation in November. It was great.

Thanks to Connie Colle and the volunteers who decorated the Arboretum tree in December!!!!

2009 BCMG Officers

Position	Nominee
President	Melanie Erickson
Vice President	Connie Colle
Secretary	Jean Rhodes
Volunteer Coordinator	Holly Cleppe
Newsletter Editor	Gwen Schwestka
Historian	Deanna Garwood
Steering Comm Intern	Cathy Carlson or Amy Walters

Upcoming Garden Shows & Seminars

January 16-18, 2009

Iowa Home Show

Iowa State Fairgrounds

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

\$6.95 admission, 2/1 coupon on website

January 20-22, 2009

Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

Polk County Convention Complex

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

Fee

February 12-15, 2009

Des Moines Home & Garden Show

Iowa Events Center, Des Moines

<http://www.desmoineshomeandgardenshow.com>

Admission Fee

March 7, 2009

Fort Dodge Area Gardeners Spring Seminar

Iowa Central Community College, Fort Dodge, IA

Registration Fee

Garden Visions 2009 – *Under the Cloak of Winter*

January 30-February 1, 2009

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

Conference for Northern Climate Gardeners
Wausau, WI

Registrations due 1/1/6/2009

Saturday Program, \$40

Optional Friday evening programs free for MG's

Optional Sunday Tours, \$3

Winter Gardening Fair

February 7, 2009

Kirkwood Center for Continuing Education, Cedar
Rapids, \$49, lunch included

Sponsored by Linn County MG's

www.extension.iastate.edu/linn

Save the Dates for the 2009 Polk County MG Bus Tours!

One Day Trip: On May 30th our destination is Kansas
City. The highlight of the trip will be a visit to Dave
Bird's orchid collection which consists of over 4,000
plants happily growing in a 6,000 square foot cave. As

always, our trip will include a stop at a garden center or
two, plus more beautiful gardens to visit along the way.

Two Day Trip: On August 1st and 2nd, we will travel
to northeast Iowa to visit Seed Savers Exchange (an
organization dedicated to saving and sharing heirloom
seeds), Willowglen Perennial
Nursery (including their display gardens), and Ion
Exchange, Inc. (a native seed and plant nursery). We'll
have more details as we get closer to the date of the trip.

Volunteers Needed at Brushy Creek

If you need any hours for 2008 (or 2009), you can call
Bill Johnston at Brushy Creek and volunteer your time.
He's always looking for help. He has some special work
sessions in the evenings and/or weekends but he can use
help during the weekdays, too. It's a beautiful drive up
there and the park is very nice, too.

Bill Johnson, Biologist

Iowa DNR Prairie Resource Center

2820 Brushy Creek Road

Lehigh, IA 50557

515-543-8319

Iowa Arboretum

<http://iowaarboretum.org/> or email info@iowaarboretum.org, 515-795-3216

Programs count towards continuing education. Workdays towards volunteer service.

Soup Suppers

4-7 p.m., \$6/person

January 30

February 27

March 27

Volunteer at the Des Moines Home & Garden Show

February 12-15, 2009

The Arboretum will once again be coordinating the All
Iowa Store, Potting Shed Garden Store, and Wine
Village at Des Moines Home and Garden Show. Look
for us on the lower level of Hy-Vee Hall. If you're
interested in volunteering, please call 515/795-3216.

Spring Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m. to Noon

Welcome spring with breakfast at the Iowa Arboretum.

We will be serving hot, fluffy pancakes, sausage, and
beverages. Breakfast will be served until Noon.

Fee: \$5 Adults, \$3 Children under 12

Pruning Workshop

Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m.

This workshop will focus on pruning, a crucial step in
tree care and one which many people ignore or abuse.
We will demonstrate proper pruning techniques, give
you an opportunity to practice, and answer all of your
questions. Bring a pruning saw if you have one. Dress
appropriately for the weather.

Fee: \$6 Arboretum Members, \$8 Non-Members

Reiman Gardens

www.reimangarden.iastate.edu

Winter Hours Set

Reiman Gardens will be open daily at 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. including the Christina Reiman Butterfly Wing. This year, the Gardens remain open through the winter, including weekends. Yet, from January 1 until March 31, the Butterfly Wing will be open by appointment only.

In Depth at Reiman

Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Explore the Butterfly Wing Basement

Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Explore the Gift Shop

Attend a new presentation each month to learn more about Reiman Gardens and its many plants and butterflies.

Free for CoHorts' members and volunteers; \$10 for general public. Free for ISU students.

Brown Bag Lectures

Bring your lunch to the Reiman Gardens and enjoy an education program. Call 515-294-2710 for more information. Free for members, Admission fee for general public.

January 8 at 12:00 p.m.

The 2009 Theme Year: The Landscape Before Time presented by Lisa Orgler, Reiman Gardens

February 12 at 12:00 p.m.

Prehistoric Landscapes at the Time of the Dinosaurs presented by Carl Vondra, Department of Geological and Atmospheric Sciences, ISU

Floral Design Series

Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday February 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Each month learn new floral design principles while creating your own unique floral arrangement to take home.

\$26 for CoHorts' members; \$32.50 for general public. \$19.50 for ISU students.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

Call 515-294-2710 for more information.

Volunteer Trainings Set

Please contact Pat Kunz at 515-294-8225 or patkunz@iastate.edu for more information.

Spring Transplanting Volunteer Training

Tuesday, January 13th - 10 a.m. to noon -

This training session will prepare you to do transplanting throughout the winter and spring months! Greenhouse Worker Training is required in order to work in the Headhouse or Greenhouse.

Greenhouse Worker Volunteer Training

Only one session required!

Tuesday, January 20th - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. -

Wednesday, January 21st - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Thursday, January 22nd - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, January 24th - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Due to the Worker Protection Standard, certain training must take place with all volunteers who plan to work in the Greenhouse or the Headhouse. This is a totally new requirement; it has never been offered at the Gardens at any other time.

Adult Tour Guide Volunteer Training

One session plus one Butterfly Wing docent training session required!

Wednesday, February 11th - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, February 17th - 9 a.m. to noon

Tours come from all over Iowa and the surrounding states during the spring, summer and fall months. We need guides to lead groups throughout the Conservatory Complex and outdoor gardens. These tours usually run one hour. If you would like to participate in this activity, please let me know.

Outdoor Horticulture Volunteer Training

Only one session required!

Thursday, February 19th - 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. -

We need many volunteers in the outdoor horticulture area this season. In order to make your time and service effective, efficient and satisfying, we have set up several training sessions. See the calendar for additional dates.

Des Moines Botanical Center

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

1/20/2009, 10:00am, Robert Oliver "Historic Villas, Gardens and Vineyards of Italy" - 11:00am, "Formal Gardens" from the Public TV series "Gardens of the World with Audrey Hepburn"

1/17/2009, 10:00am, Elvin McDonald on the making of the Emmy Award-winning Public TV series "Gardens of the World with Audrey Hepburn". A slide presentation from the Netherlands and Java, Indonesia - 11:00am, "Tulips & Spring Bulbs" and "Tropical Gardens" from the TV series.

1/24/2009, 10:00am, Elvin McDonald will host a television screening of "Japanese Gardens" with Audrey Hepburn - 11:00am, Elvin McDonald: Japanese-style gardens and garden art forms in Western settings

1/31/2009, 10:00am, Some Favorite English Gardens and English-style gardening in Iowa by Keith Thornton - 11:00am, Fabled English Gardens in video

2/7/2009, 10:00am, Planning for Planting: Garden Design 101 - 11:00am, Edible Landscaping: The Grazing Garden

2/14/2009, 10:00am, Marcia Leeper: *Why I Love To Garden* - 11:00am, C.Z. Guest's "Life in the Garden", a privately produced video in which a fashion and sports icon of the 20th Century shares her passion for gardens and gardening.

2/21/2009, 10:00am, Deb Wiley: Great Ideas from Magazine-worthy Gardens and New Plants for 2009 - 11:00am, "Romancing the Seed," a Brooklyn Botanic Garden video about the flower and vegetable seed industry - with visits to all major California flower fields.

2/28/2009, 10:00am, Marcia Leeper: "Fitness in the Garden" - 11:00am, How To Make a National Backyard Wildlife Habitat



I believe in the possibility....

Welcome everyone to the New Year. I am new at this business and will be relying on your positive feedback and ideas to contribute to this newsletter. (All negative comments can be forwarded to Melanie Erickson.) I have enlarged the type for all of you with bad eyes and think I will try this standard paragraph format, so that it is easier to read. I hope to pass along helpful information and fun things to do.

I would also like to feature a little information on each of the Boone Master Gardeners. Let's get re-acquainted shall we? I will contact each of the people on our current list throughout the year for a fun article.

Thanks everyone for making 2008 a successful year and keeping the volunteer spirit alive. -
Gwen Schwestka

YOUR environment minute:

Recycle that Christmas Tree Please!

You can recycle your tree and make it useful for the garden:

- *Make mulch-contact your local parks dept for drop-off information.
- *Bird sanctuary- put tree with stand outdoors and hang bird treats/food on it.
- *Give it to the fish-with permission sink it into a pond for fish habitats.
- *Turn it into a trellis this spring for your peas and beans.
- *Next year purchase a balled and burlapped tree to plant.



my garden

kicks

ass



Meet the Masters:

I will start this year off featuring myself, Gwen Schwestka. I have just completed my internship and I am officially named a Master Gardener. (PS. I am still awaiting my real nametag.) I have lived in Boone for 5 years. I work weekends at Boone County Hospital and look forward to my time in the garden as an escape. I keep very busy with the twins, Jack and Levi ages 2, and my husband, Chris.

I enjoy learning new things about landscape and gardening and am trying to be more organic and kid friendly in my designs and methods. I have a small yard and incorporating these things in a tight space has definitely been a learning experience.

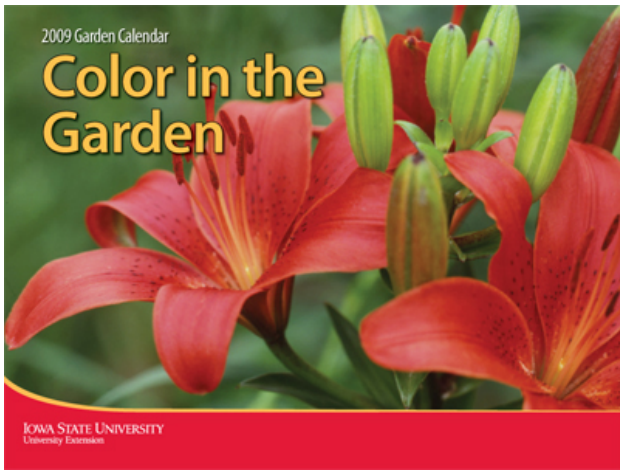


I would also like to send a **big** thank you to all of those that helped me complete my big project at United Community Schools last year.

I spent over 100 hours out there, and I know I never would have completed it without your additional help. Yes, it will be an ongoing project and anytime you want or need hours, there will be many hours of work to be done out there. Please contact me for more information come spring... gwenms@msn.com



Ivan Schwestka helping spread mulch at United.



Pick up your new calendar today!

Color In the Landscape Is Theme for 2009 ISU Extension Garden Calendar



This color wheel is featured in the 2009 Garden Calendar.

AMES, Iowa – Landscape color themes are a highlight of the 2009 Garden Calendar just released by Iowa State University Extension. Illustrated with more than 70 color photographs, the calendar features monthly gardening tips. There also is room to record your own gardening notes for future reference. Designed as a 12x9-inch booklet, the calendar also is punched so it can be used as a 12x18-inch wall calendar.

Cindy Haynes and Richard Jauron, ISU Extension horticulture specialists, prepared the calendar, which provides tips for using color in the landscape. "Color is often the first feature we see when looking at a garden, flower arrangement or landscape," Haynes said. "Plants, containers, deck and fence materials, arbors and walkways all contribute to our overall impression of color."

The calendar has an illustrated section on how to use color combinations in the home landscape, including monochromatic colors, analogous colors, warm colors, cool colors and complementary color pairs or trios. Each month features a specific color with one full page photo and several smaller photos of plants or objects found in the garden that possess the featured color. To assist gardeners, a list of plants is provided for each color. The list contains annuals, perennials and woody plants for each specific color. A literary quotation on the featured color also is included for each month.

The calendar includes a map of cold hardiness zones in Iowa as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a list of ISU Extension horticulture publications on general garden topics, fruits, garden flowers, houseplants, trees and shrubs, and vegetables and herbs. A list of phone numbers for horticulture resources at the university also is provided.

The 2009 Garden Calendar, PM 815, is available from local ISU Extension county offices or can be ordered from the ISU Extension Online Store at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/> or at (515) 294-5247. Cost is \$6 plus shipping and handling. Haynes and Jauron were assisted in preparing the 2009 calendar by Diane Nelson, extension communication specialist, and Jane Lenahan, extension graphic designer. Photography was provided by Peter Krumhardt.

