

# Boone County ISU Extension

## Master Gardener Update

Volume 13, Issue 4

April 2009



### Next Meeting:

**April 9<sup>th</sup> 7pm Extension Office**

Speaker: Janice Schlicht

Topic: Gardening under Adverse Conditions

### Upcoming Events:

**April 3-4<sup>th</sup>**

All-Iowa Horticulture Expo

[www/iowahort.org](http://www/iowahort.org) to register or call 641-683-6260

**April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm Bountiful Boone:** Bill Martin will be speaking at the Ericson Library in Boone and handing out free seeds from Seed Savers while supplies last.

**April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm**

Backyard composting information given at McHose Park, Boone. RSVP 433-0591 or [info@boonelandfill.org](mailto:info@boonelandfill.org)

**April 23<sup>rd</sup> 4-8pm**

Earl May's Girls Night Out  
1601 South Kellogg Ames, IA  
232-2929 Free seminars, prizes, special displays

**May 2-3<sup>rd</sup>**

Polk Co. Master Gardener Plant Sale.  
Des Moines Botanical Center.

**May 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

Garden Tour: Leone Junck Residence  
Details coming soon.



Gwen And Miriam enjoyed the IACEC Legislative Day.

So much to do and so little time. If you are like me, you have already started digging in your gardens and getting things ready for the season. I really enjoyed going to Des Moines on March 18<sup>th</sup> to the Legislative Day. Getting an up close look at the operations of our capital and meeting our representatives was very educational. I encourage all of you to try and make it next time. The tour of the Polk County Master Gardener's ideal spot at the Botanical center was amazing. They are so fortunate to have such a facility for their operations. Please check out there upcoming plant sale. They also have an open invitation to anyone wanting to volunteer. Call or email Eddie Cox: 515-964-1958 or [edcox906@msn.com](mailto:edcox906@msn.com). Lunch at the Botanical center was very lovely too. (Thanks Miriam for picking up my tab!)

We then braved our way through the inner city to find a hidden gem. Doctor Bannister's Greenhouse was simply magnificent. If you love orchids you must travel to his greenhouse. They are open 9-5 Monday-Saturday. He has over 300 varieties crammed in this non-discript and converted home. 3910 Columbia, Des Moines

## Des Moines Botanical Center Events:

### Show House

The Polk County Master Gardeners and the Botanical Center Volunteers have knocked themselves out turning the Show House into a holiday wonderland. Just walking into the space is an uplifting experience, with the sweet smell of jasmine in the air, mingled with the earthiness of rose geraniums and savory rosemary bushes. Orchids and begonias are almost always in bloom in the Show House--now they are joined by the trumpets of amaryllis—in many colors, sizes and types, singles, doubles, giants, miniatures—all through winter. Each of the eight bays has a different theme, varying from a dooryard garden to a dinosaur bed to a collection of tiny plants in terrariums. There is a pot man dressed as Santa, a living wreath of Diamond Frost euphorbia (a first cousin of the Christmas poinsettia)—not to mention living wreaths of succulents, giant airplane or spider plant and earth star bromeliads (ornamental cousins of the pineapple). Soon after December 21st, the longest night, 125 different coleus will once again begin active growth and not far into the New Year there will be pots and pots of fragrant spring bulbs brought to bloom in the Show House. In fact, take the dread out of your winter and come spend some quality time in the tropics—the Dome and Show House at the Des Moines Botanical and Environmental Center.

### Learn on Saturdays - 10:00am

Don't miss this year's Spring Ahead event. It will include a series of 30 free classes and workshops at the Des Moines Botanical and Environmental Center every Saturday from January 10th through April 25th. Some classes may require a fee for materials. Don't forget to enjoy lunch at the Riverwalk Cafe following the morning's program!

### Next Show House Display - April 4, 2009

An all-new Plants Around the World theme in the Show House beginning April 4th.

April 4, 2009, 10:00am-  
2:00pm

### Iowa Egg Council Annual Egg Cookoff and Easter Bunny Visit

Plan to attend the Iowa Egg Council Annual Egg Cook-off this year at the Des Moines Botanical and Environmental Center! Sample "eggstraordinary" recipes while your children participate in various crafts & activities throughout the facility. The Easter Bunny will be handing out treats. To request an entry blank with contest rules, contact the Iowa Egg Council at 1-877-IOWAEGG (877-469-2344) or via the website – [www.iowaegg.org](http://www.iowaegg.org). For additional event information, please call the Botanical Center at 323-6290.

April 4, 2009, 10:00am

### Learn on Saturdays

10 a.m. Wanda Lunn will speak on gardening with bearded iris in Iowa gardens. 11 a.m. Orchid repotting workshop in the Potting Shed; bring orchids for free evaluation; pay a small fee for repotting.

April 4-5, 2009,  
10:00am-5:00pm

### Iowa Bonsai Association Spring Show

April 4, 10:00 – 5:00, April 5, 10:00 – 4:00 Iowa Bonsai Association Spring Show in the Gardeners Show House; pruning demonstrations both days from 10 a.m. to noon.

April 11, 2009,  
10:00am

### Learn on Saturdays

10 a.m. Wes Hunsberger: Growing Vertically Enhances Small-space Gardens. 11 a.m. Iowa Koi and Watergarden: Origins of Koi and Koi Pond Essentials.

April 18, 2009,  
10:00am

### Learn on Saturdays

10:00am, Gardening with deer and other critters - 11:00am, Growing begonias, coleus and other showy plants from cuttings. Hands on and take home.

April 22, 2009,  
10:00am-5:00pm

### Earth Day

Enjoy free admission to the Des Moines Botanical & Environmental Center on Earth Day - Wednesday, April 22, 2009

April 25, 2009,  
10:00am

### Learn on Saturdays

10:00am, Earthkind Roses by Tonya Maher. The best roses for Iowa gardens - roses that can take summer heat, extreme winter cold, are disease-resistant and prolific bloomers. Illustrated talk. - 11:00am, Pruning demonstration by chief horticulturist Todd Monson in the South Rose Gardens at the Botanical Center.

April 28, 2009,  
10:00am

### Toddler Time

Enjoy a story with a garden theme, music and movement. Accompanied by an adult caregiver, children ages 1-3 are invited to dance, sing, and play, as they enjoy the company of children their own age. This very special morning always ends with a treasure hunt in the dome. For more information, please call (515) 323-6265 or email [ajordan@botanicalcenter.com](mailto:ajordan@botanicalcenter.com)

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May 2-3, 2009

### 8th Annual Sale of Earth Kind Roses at the Botanical Center

The Volunteer Advisory Council (VAC) will hold its 8th annual Rose sale in the Potting Shed by the greenhouses at the south end of the Center. The featured roses offered will include five varieties of Buck roses, one variety of a hardy climbing rose and ten colors of Bailey Nurseries' Easy Elegance brand. All the roses for sale are considered Earth Kind, owing to the fact that they need little or no spraying or other maintenance yet produce an abundance of flowers over a long season. The price of these beautiful roses is \$20 each, all sales final.

May 2-3, 2009

### 2009 Polk County Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 2 8:00am-4:30pm and Sunday, May 3 12:30pm-4:30pm. Selections include annual flowers and vegetables, hardy and tropical perennials and selected treasures. Prices will vary depending on pot size and rarity; most annuals are a bargain at four for \$1.75.

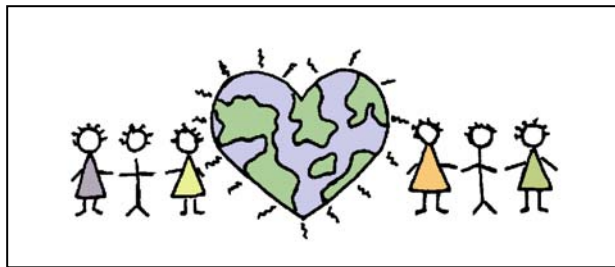
May 10, 2009

### Mother's Day Brunch

Instead of buying your mom roses on Mother's Day, bring her to the Botanical Center where she can enjoy an entire dome full of beautiful flowers. The center is hosting its 3rd Annual Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 10. A special brunch will be available with reservations required. Two seatings at 10:00am and 1:00pm. Children 10 & under, \$10.95, all others \$24.95. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Des Moines Botanical Center's catering office at 515-323-6289.

**Project Updates:** Holly Cleppe and Connie Colle will be working together on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> for the outdoor classroom at McHose Park. They will let us know if they need any supplies from our stashes.

The 2009 Open Class Fair Book should be online soon. Go to <http://www.boonecountyfairia.com> for the new fair book to plan your projects. When it's up, forward to friends who may be interested. A printed version will also be available at the Fair Board Office and the Extension office.



## **4-H Extravaganza Needs Volunteers**

**The MG's will again have an interactive booth at the 4-H Extravaganza on Friday morning July 19 from 930-11am.**

**We need someone to step forward to chair this project and we also need volunteers. Check your calendars and put on your thinking caps. If you have any great ideas, email them to [bcmg50036@gmail.com](mailto:bcmg50036@gmail.com). We will discuss this at the April meeting. The 2009 Extravaganza theme is: "Looking to the Future- 4 Ever Green"**

**The 2009 fair theme is:  
"It's a Grand new Fair! More to see...more to do!"**

## **Save the Date!**

### **Earth Day Volunteer Event** Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 2009 **Geo-caching, Garlic Mustard Pull & Prairie Night Burn!**

#### **1:00 – 4:00 Cache-In, Trash Out**

Get out and explore nature! Using GPS units participants will hike through the park locating caches (hidden “treasures”) and picking up trash along the way.

#### **4:00 Garlic Mustard Pull**

Help restore habitat by removing the invasive species garlic mustard. A quick lesson on identifying the invasive mustard and learning the agency’s plan of attack will precede the pull. Hot dogs will be provided for supper following the event, bring your own beverage.

#### **7:00 Prairie Night Burn**

Experience the thrill of a controlled fire at dusk! Join experts for a brief lesson in prairie management followed by a prairie burn (weather permitting) at a remote site.

Witness a glimpse into history and learn about the importance of this effective management tool.

This is a free family event sponsored by the Iowa DNR and Webster County Conservation. Each event will begin at the Brushy Creek Prairie Resource Center. Be sure to wear work clothes, sturdy shoes and gloves. Bags will be provided for trash and garlic mustard.

**Directions to Brushy Creek: From Hwy 20 -** Turn south on County blacktop P73. just south of Duncombe exit, there is a sign for Brushy Creek Park. Continue south approximately 3.5 miles. Turn east on Lake view drive. This road winds thru the park, past the campground, across the dam and finally turns south just east of the dam. The Prairie Resource Center will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of buildings on the east side of the road. There is a sign in front of the office.

For cancellation, listen to local radio stations. There is no rain date scheduled.

#### **Contact:**

Karen Roosa Hansen  
[khansen@webstercountyia.org](mailto:khansen@webstercountyia.org)

Elizabeth Ford  
[elizabeth.ford@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:elizabeth.ford@dnr.iowa.gov)

Leiah Zimek  
[leiah.zimek@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:leiah.zimek@dnr.iowa.gov)



Happy Spring Everyone!

Here are a couple of egg-cellent ideas from the Iowa Egg Council.

### Yolk Paints

This easy-to-make paint dries to a flexible, glossy finish making it perfect for painting home made wrapping paper and decorating eggs. Finger paints are easy for little hands, and make clean-up easy. Just wash hands and surfaces with plenty of soap and water.

Materials:

1 egg yolk for each color desired  
food coloring  
toothpicks

Prepare egg paint by mixing drops of food coloring into each yolk and blend with a toothpick. Children may assist in mixing paint; but encourage them to add dye only one drop at a time. Egg paint should not be eaten.

Set out yolk-paints, paper or eggs and watch the little artists go to work!

### Biodegradable Planters:

- 1) Tap the top of the wide end of an egg on a counter.
- 2) Peel the top off the egg.
- 3) Pour the egg contents into a bowl for cooking.
- 4) Cut or tear the edges of the egg as you desire.
- 5) With a marker, color the egg, or make a face, if desired.
- 6) Fill the egg with soil.
- 7) Plant grass seeds or small plants.
- 8) Follow the seed directions for light and moisture.
- 9) If you would like to plant the new seedling outside, simply crush the eggshell and plant it all in the soil. Eggshells contain good soil nutrients.
- 10) If you have grass "hair" on your egg with a face, clip the "hair" or fix it as you desire!

## United Community Schools Spring Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> begins at 9am

Everyone is invited!

Pancake breakfast will be available at 8am (inside United South building)

(Free will donations accepted)