



Horticulture Happenings

An Iowa State University Extension Newsletter for Mid-Iowa Gardeners

Fall 2006 - Vol. 3, No. 4

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The picture above shows just one of many beautiful landscape scenes that may be viewed in the yard of Maxine Larson, a Wright County Master Gardener.

Maxine lives in Clarion and has been A Master Gardener for two years.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Helping you become your best.

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

Harvest Time is Here!



Welcome to Hardin County! I am happy to announce that we have added Hardin County and the Greenbelt Master Gardeners to the Mid-Iowa Horticulture group.

This addition brings the number of our counties now to five, along with Hamilton, Humboldt, Webster, and Wright counties.

We are also excited to be offering the Iowa Master Gardener training once again in our area. Hardin County site has 5 students; with 7 students in Hamilton; Humboldt has 4 students; Webster has 6 students and Wright County has 3 students, all who are taking the training classes this fall.

Master Gardeners are individuals who have an interest in horticulture, have taken the 40 hours of training offered by ISU

professionals and share their time and expertise with other area gardeners.

It is the acquisition of knowledge, the skill in gardening and giving back to the community that distinguishes a Master Gardener from other gardeners.

Iowa Master Gardeners are available for **you!** Please call your local county ISU Extension Office if you would like to schedule a Master Gardener to speak at your club or service group meeting.

Well, fall is just around the corner and gardeners will soon start to receive a supply of garden catalogs with new offerings for next season.

And why not try a new apple recipe with the plentiful harvest this year?

Happy Harvesting!

Yvonne Nilles, ISU Horticulturalist

Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners to meet in Webster City

The Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners will resume their monthly meetings on Tuesday, November 7, at the Hamilton Co. ISU Extension Office, 311 Bank St. in Webster City at 6:30 p.m.

“New Plants for 2007” will be the program. All area Master Gardeners are invited to attend.



MID-IOWA AREA HORTICULTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

- Sept 28....Master Gardener Training
Houseplants – Jeff Becker
Webster Co. ISU Extension
- Oct 5.....Ft. Dodge Area Gardeners
6 pm, Potluck, Kennedy Park
- Oct 5.... Master Gardener Training
Vegetables – Steve Wright
Hamilton Co. ISU Extension
- Oct 10....Master Gardener Training
Plant Pathology/Entomology
Webster Co. ISU Extension
& Hardin Co. ISU Extension
- Oct 12....Master Gardener Training
IPM & Pesticides
Hamilton Co. ISU Extension
- Oct 14....Fort Dodge Fed Garden Club
Izaak Walton, 1 pm. *Color in
Landscaping* by Randy Aljets
- Oct 17....Master Gardener Training
Fruit Culture
Humboldt Co. ISU Extension
& Hardin Co. ISU Extension
- Oct 18...Fall Planting Workshop
Town & Country Garden Club
9:30 am, at the WC Depot
- Oct 19....Master Gardener Training
Herbaceous Ornamentals
Webster Co. ISU Extension
- Oct 24....Master Gardener Training
Garden Design
Hamilton Co. ISU Extension
& Hardin Co. ISU Extension
- Oct 25...Town & Country Garden Club
Program: “*Dried Flower Fun*”
Noon Potluck, WC Depot

For further details on these events,
call 515-832-9597

Please submit your events to:

Horticulture Happenings
311 Bank Street
Webster City, IA 50595-2303
Phone: 515-832-9597
Fax: 515-832-9599
Or
E-mail: ynilles@iastate.edu

Did you know?

Grass Facts

-from Michigan.gov/mda

- Grass plants are 70 to 80% water and clippings are 90% water
- 90% of the weight of grass is in its roots
- A 10,000 square foot lawn will contain: 6 grass plants per square inch, 850 plants per square foot, 8.5 million plants total
- The front lawns of 8 average houses have the same cooling effect as 24 (3-4 ton capacity) home central air conditioning units
- Turfgrasses trap much of an estimated 12 million tons of dust and dirt released annually into the U.S. atmosphere.
- Turfgrasses help purify water entering underground aquifers by its root mass and soil microbes acting as a filter to capture and breakdown many types of pollutants.
- A dense lawn is 6 times more effective than a wheat field and 4 times better than a hayfield at absorbing rainfall.
- A 50 by 50 foot turfgrass lawn (2,500 square feet) releases enough oxygen for a family of four, while absorbing carbon dioxide, hydrogen fluoride and peroxyacetylene nitrate.
- The grass and trees along the U.S. interstate highway system release enough oxygen to support 22 million people.

RECIPE CORNER



Apple Bundt Cake

- 4 cups apples, diced
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 3 cups flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 2 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

In medium bowl, combine apples, 2 T. sugar & 2 teas. cinnamon; set aside. Sift together the flour, baking powder & salt; set aside.

In large bowl, combine 2 c. sugar, oil, O.J., vanilla & eggs. Beat until smooth. Stir in apples. Add walnuts to flour mix; fold into batter. Pour into greased & floured 10" Bundt or tube pan. Bake at 350° for 55 to 60 min, or until the top springs back when lightly touched. Let cool in pan for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack and cool completely. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar.

We Need You!



Please submit YOUR article
for the next issue of
Horticulture Happenings



**ALL submissions will be
considered!**

Please!

Thank you!

Meet a Master Gardener...



Humboldt County Master Gardener Cheryl Rhead lives in Humboldt.

Cheryl Rhead

Our featured Mid-Iowa Master Gardener for this issue is Humboldt County Master Gardener Cheryl Rhead. Cheryl works as Vice President of Mortgage Lending at Bank Iowa in Humboldt.

Cheryl completed her Master Gardener training in 2004. Among her volunteer activities, Cheryl has given many educational presentations, including classes on making an obelisk; making a birdbath; a presentation on vegetables; and organized and conducted a plant exchange.

She also has volunteered in plantings and maintenance at Turtle Park; in plant selection for the Building Trades Home project; has provided plant selection assistance to consumers at area businesses; and has assisted in the landscaping and plant maintenance at the Humboldt County Memorial Hospital.

This summer, Cheryl has worked at clearing a city property to make a Faith Garden, just to the north of her home. She had originally planned this to be in honor of her son and a friend serving Iraq, but has since decided it needed to have a broader scope. Cheryl states; *“My husband is so impressed that people use this place daily. The joy that gardening brings to others makes it all worth it.”*

Thank you Cheryl, for all your many hours of volunteer service!

Tour held in Clarion at Maxine Larson’s garden ...



'Sweet Autumn' Clematis

Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners and Interns enjoyed a tour of Wright County Master Gardener Maxine Larson’s garden in Clarion on September 12.

Visitors were treated to the wonderfully sweet fragrance of Maxine’s ‘Sweet Autumn’ clematis which was fully in bloom and the sounds of several unique water features in her garden area.



Following the tour, the group proceeded to the Wright County ISU Extension Office in Clarion to view the first Master Gardener training session on Animal Ecology and Wildlife Management, which was presented by Dr. Jim Pease.

Take an ISU Horticulture Course on-line!

On-line courses help you develop and expand your skills whether you're a Master Gardener, a homeowner or work in a garden retail setting. Each course is one college credit or noncredit. You will spend two to three hours per week studying the lesson and completing assignments. Courses are divided into units. Each unit will have a quiz. A final project is required in the credit course.

October 2-November 3, 2006 Horticulture 193B Annual Flowers

Learn about planting annuals in containers, starting seeds and transplanting in the garden. Study 40 annual flowers for Iowa gardens.

October 16-November 17, 2006 Horticulture 193A Houseplants

Learn basic aspects of houseplant selection for different indoor conditions. Get in-depth fact sheets with culture information and care instructions for 40 popular foliage and blooming houseplants.

October 30-December 1, 2006 Horticulture 193E Vegetables

Examine specific cultural practices for 40 vegetable varieties. Learn the basics of growing vegetables in containers - which varieties work well, what soil to use and fertilizer requirements.

Cost per course:

Credit

Undergraduate tuition \$212 plus \$103 fees

Register at

www.lifelearner.iastate.edu/learners/hortonline.htm

Noncredit

Early registration (more than one month before course begins) \$69, full registration \$89

Register at

www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/hort493/home.html

Many companies and government agencies offer tuition reimbursement or assistance for college credit courses. Check with your company's human resources department.



WANT ADS

Wanted: Old bowling balls for landscape ornament project. Call 515-832-9597.

Help Wanted: Master Gardeners to write article on horticultural related topics. Call 515-832-9597.

Not on the *Horticulture Happenings* mailing list?

Contact Yvonne Nilles at ynilles@iastate.edu
or
call 515-832-9597
to have your name added to our mailing list.

