



# Horticulture Happenings

An Iowa State University Extension Newsletter for Mid-Iowa Gardeners

Sept. 09 Vol. 5 No. 1

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## Bring the harvest home – to your kitchen!



It's that time of year again – the orchards are open, with boxes and bags of crisp juicy apples for cooking!

I was the lucky recipient of a bag of Freedom apples at the last Fort Dodge Area Gardeners meeting. Door prizes were given away and my number was drawn! I can't wait to fill my kitchen with delicious smells of cinnamon and apples. Yum!

Pumpkins, gourds and Indian corn for fall decorating are also now available. Take a photo of your door or yard decorations and submit it to this newsletter to share your ideas with others.

I hope you enjoy the photos in this issue – I hope to document events for you in pictures...as a picture speaks a thousand words, it will be

easier to write this newsletter!

We are in desperate need for you to submit horticultural articles, poetry or garden photos for this publication! Many of you have beautiful gardens and I would love to include your photos in our next issue. (Att : Master Gardeners: Article submissions will count towards fulfilling Master Gardener volunteer service hours.)

I am still learning to use my new camera – digital is wonderful – I can make even a bad shot look good!

I was hoping summer might have happened by now, but looks like the cooler weather ahead means we may miss out on our typical summer weather. That's Iowa!

Yvonne Nilles  
Region 7 Horticulturist  
Serving Hamilton, Humboldt,  
Webster & Wright counties

## Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners to meet in Clarion

The Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners will meet Tuesday, Oct. 6, at the Wright Co. Extension Office, 210 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Clarion at 7:00 p.m.

We will be holding a Jack O'Lantern contest – bring decorated cucurbits. Wright County Master Gardeners & Interns will host the meeting.



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

## MID-IOWA AREA HORTICULTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

Sept 15...Fort Dodge Fed Garden Club  
Izaak Walton, 1:00 pm.  
Program-.*Growing Garlic*  
by Leroy Jorgensen

Sept 23..Town & Country Garden Club  
Garden tours will be the  
program; Lunch at Pickles.  
Meet at 11 am to car pool at  
Hamilton Co. Extension.

Oct 1.....Fort Dodge Area Gardeners  
Potluck at Kennedy Park.  
Bring hammers and nails to  
build wren houses. 6:30 pm

Oct 6...Mid-IA Master Gardeners  
Wright Co. Ext. Off. - 7 pm  
Jack O'Lantern contest to be  
held.

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

### Submit news articles & events to:

*Horticulture Happenings*  
ISU Extension Hamilton County  
311 Bank Street  
Webster City, IA 50595-2303  
Phone: 515-832-9597  
Fax: 515-832-9599  
E-mail: [ynilles@iastate.edu](mailto:ynilles@iastate.edu)

*And don't forget to attend, watch or  
listen to the Iowa vs. ISU football  
game on September 12!*



AP photo, Steve Pope

## Food Preservation Safety



Do you know the difference between water bath canning and steam pressure canning? Are you aware of why dial gauges on pressure canners should be tested annually? These and other questions can be answered with help from your local county extension office.

This time is the time of year gardeners complete their harvest by preserving garden produce for the coming winter months.

In the past, many people became ill by eating food contaminated with *Clostridium botulinum*. This bacteria can survive and grow inside a sealed jar of food and produces a highly poisonous toxin. Even a taste of food containing this toxin can be fatal!

Fortunately today, we have much researched based advice available on the proper methods for preserving foods to prevent such tragedies.

Always be sure to use safety tested recipes and procedures when preserving food. A helpful link to the National Center for Home Food Preservation web site and an online version of the USDA *Guide to Home Canning* can be found at: [http://www.uga.edu/nchfp/publications/publications\\_usda.html](http://www.uga.edu/nchfp/publications/publications_usda.html)

So be safe, and be smart – consult your Extension Office or call the ISU AnswerLine at 1-800-262-3804 with any food preservation questions.

## RECIPE CORNER



### Caramel Apples

1 1/3 c. Eagle Brand milk  
1 stick butter  
2 c. dark brown sugar  
3/4 c. white syrup  
Pinch of salt  
Ground nuts (optional)

**Prior to cooking caramel, insert sticks into apples that have been washed and dried.**

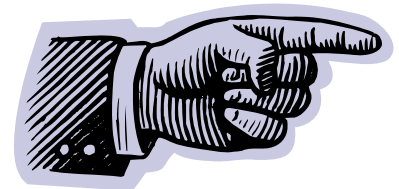
**Mix ingredients together and heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Boil 5 min. and remove from heat.**

**Dip apples into the caramel (and then in ground nuts – optional).**

**For an extra treat – dip again in melted chocolate – Yum!**

**Let harden on wax paper or muffin cups.**

## We Need You!



*Articles of interest,*

*Photos,*

*Tips & Ideas...*



**Please submit YOUR article  
for the next issue of  
Horticulture Happenings**



**ALL submissions will be  
considered!**



## ***Meet a Master Gardener...***

### **Bill Becker**

Our featured Region 7 Master Gardener for the month is Webster County Master Gardener Bill Becker. Bill has been an active Master Gardener for many years; his love of horticulture runs in the family, as son Jeff is also very active in Master Gardener activities.

Bill has given many horticultural presentations for various groups and clubs in the area over the years. He is pictured here giving a presentation on "Growing Bulbs" for the FD Area Gardener's September meeting.

If you would like to hear Bill speak, or any other of our Region 7 Master Gardeners or Interns, please call your local ISU Extension Office for further information.

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

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## **Flower of the Month...**

### ***Gladiolus***

Glads are one of my preferred flowers – as there are so many colors available and they seem to last forever in a vase.

The glad pictured here, 'Antique Rose', is one of my favorites and is a very healthy plant.

I won the reserve grand champion ribbon at the Iowa State Fair this year with the variety 'High Society', and it is another cultivar I definitely would recommend growing for garden color and exhibiting.

Gladioli reproduce by forming new corms each year, as well as many baby "cormels" which can reach blooming size in about 3 years.

The only drawback to this stately flower would be the fact they are not winter hardy and must be lifted and stored for replanting in the spring.

Be happy and plan to plant some glads next year! Who knows – I many even have extra to share in a year or two.



# All Horticulture Field Day Held



Several of our Region 7 Master Gardeners attended the All Horticulture Field Day held August 6 at the ISU Research Farm near Gilbert. This photo shows Dr. David Minner discussing turf research at the farm.

## Master Gardener Work in Progress – Athens Woods in Stratford



Pictured here is Keith Carlson, a Hamilton County Master Gardener Intern from Stratford. Keith thinks "BIG" as a visit to this garden site proves. This garden design features a winding water feature with 3 ponds, 2 bridges and many berms yet to be developed.

Keith is pictured here with one of the berms he is hoping will be adopted for planting by area residents. The garden is located on the grounds of Athens Woods Assisted Living Facility.

We can't wait to make a return visit next year to see the progress with this project.



### Garden Quote:

*"There is no other door to knowledge than the door Nature opens: and there is no truth except the truths we discover in Nature."*

- Luther Burbank