

Mahaska County
Iowa State University Extension
 212 North I Street
 Oskaloosa IA 52577
 Phone: 641-673-5841 Fax: 641-673-0559
www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska
 Office Hours: Monday-Friday
 8am –1 pm, 1:30 –4:30 pm



At the Garden Gate



January / February 2012

Mahaska County Extension Horticulture Newsletter

Beginning Gardening

The Iowa State University Extension Master Gardeners of Mahaska County are offering classes for beginning gardeners.

The classes are designed for beginners, however, *any interested gardener is encouraged to attend.*



Classes will be held Tuesday evenings at the Mahaska County Extension Office. Dates and topics are:

February 9 Pruning Trees and Shrubs

February 16 Raised Beds and Square Foot Gardening

February 23 Structures for the Garden: Rain Barrel, Tomato Cages, & Cattle Panel Trellis

Participants may attend one, two or all three classes. Cost for each class is \$5; or \$10 for all three. To register, please contact Suzette Striegel (striegel@iastate.edu) at 641-673-5841 or visit our website www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska/.

Inside this Issue:

Lil' & Junior Gardeners		MCCB Bird Food Giveaway	
Essential Garden Tools	2	Christmas Tree & Greenery	
Master Gardener Meetings	3	Recycling	5
Weather Announcements		All American Selections 2012	6
Speaker Series Bonus Session		Roses have Hips Too!	7
February 28—Diane Ott Whealy	3	ISU Extension Publications	8
Bee Keeping classes		Garden To Do List	9
Speaker Series—March 2012	4	Garden Calendar	10
		Upcoming Events	11

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
 University Extension

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

Lil' Gardeners Clover Kids Group and Junior Gardeners 4-H Club

will meet **Monday, January 23**. The theme for Lil Gardeners is Prairie Plants and for Junior Gardeners Un-Native plants.

They will also meet **Monday, February 27**. The theme groups for both will be The LORAX.

Lil' Gardeners Clover Kids (for grades K-3) meets 5:30-6:30 pm and Junior Gardeners 4-H (for grades 4-12) meets at 7 pm. To insure we will have enough supplies, please indicate to Suzette you will be attending.

Lil' Gardeners and Junior Gardeners are special interest 4-H clubs. If you are already a member of one 4-H club in Mahaska county, you do not pay an additional enrollment fee to join. If only joining one of these 4-H groups, you will need to pay the enrollment fee (\$15 for Lil' Gardeners and \$30 for Junior Gardeners). For more information, please contact Suzette Striegel at the Mahaska County Extension Office.



Essential Garden Tools

A discussion of garden tools, their features and their uses will be held at the Mahaska County Extension Office **Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 7 pm**. The event is hosted by the Mahaska County Master Gardeners. It is free and open to the public. *All interested gardeners are encouraged to attend!*



Upcoming Events

- January 2** Office Closed for New Years Day
- January 10** Master Gardener Potluck Dinner and White Elephant Exchange, 6 pm
Followed by short meeting
- January 16** Office closed for Martin Luther King holiday
- January 23** Lil Gardeners 5:30 pm; Junior Gardeners 7 pm
- February 7** Master Gardener Meeting 6 pm
Essential Garden Tools 7 pm
- February 9** Beginning Gardening
Pruning Trees and Shrubs 6:30 pm
- February 16** Beginning Gardening
Raised Beds and Square foot Gardening 6:30 pm
- February 23** Beginning Gardening
Structures for the Garden 6:30 pm
- February 27** Lil Gardeners 5:30 pm; Junior Gardeners 7 pm

Events are at the Mahaska County Extension Office unless indicated.

If you want more information about any of the Mahaska County Extension horticulture events or have horticulture questions, please contact Suzette Striegel, Mahaska County Extension Horticulturist by calling 641-673-5841 or emailing striegel@iastate.edu.

(Continued from page 10)

you should be doing in your garden during the month. Gardening resources, such as web sites and publications, are also listed. A limited number of copies are available at our office for \$6 each.

Garden To Do List for January

- Cover new perennials with Christmas tree boughs
- Resolve to join a garden society or club this year
- Visit seed company websites to order garden seed
- Periodically check and fill bird feeders
- Check inventory of leftover or stored seeds
- Rotate houseplants to prevent one-sided growth
- Inspect trees and shrubs for rabbit damage
- Visit a garden conservatory or greenhouse
- Check overwintering bulbs in storage
- Gently brush or shake snow from evergreens

Garden To Do List for February

- Clean dusty houseplant foliage with a sponge and warm water
- Check houseplants for insects
- Order Valentine's Day flowers
- Begin pruning fruit trees
- Sow geranium seeds indoors
- Place cut flowers in a cool location away from direct sun
- Clean and sharpen garden tools
- Wait until April to fertilize houseplants
- Prune grapevines and raspberries
- Sow seeds of broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower indoors for April planting (late)
- Cut branches of spring flowering trees for forcing indoors

These items are from the 2012 ISU Extension Garden Calendar.

2012 Garden Calendar Available!

Enjoy public gardens of Iowa all year long with this beautiful calendar that shows off many of the state's natural treasures.

The Public Gardens of Iowa information is complete with locations, websites, and hours of operation, so you can plan excursions to these sources of civic pride and gardening know-how. In addition to stunning and inspirational photographs, every page provides tips on what



2012 Garden Calendar
celebrating
Public Gardens of Iowa

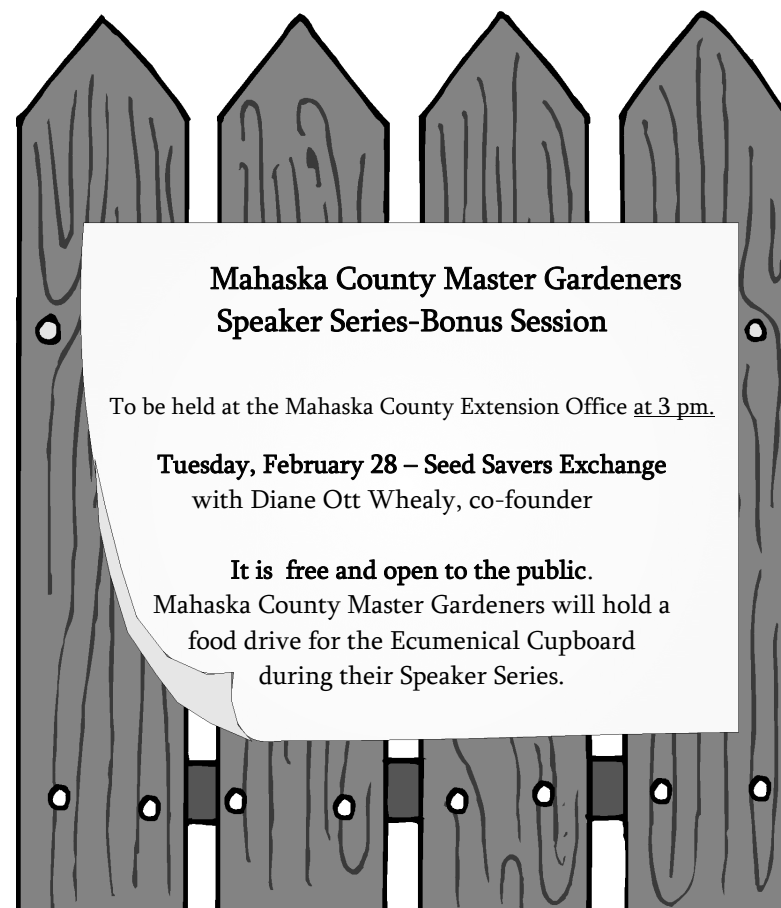
(Continued on page 11)

Master Gardener Meetings

January 10, will be after our potluck and Garden White Elephant Exchange which begins at 6 pm.

February 7, 6 pm will be followed by Essential Garden Tools program at 7 pm.

Weather Announcements—If the weather is inclement or forecast to become inclement during the event, the event will likely be postponed/cancelled. To confirm if an event is being held, please call our office (during office hours) or listen to KBOE radio weather announcements.



Mahaska County Master Gardeners Speaker Series-Bonus Session

To be held at the Mahaska County Extension Office at 3 pm.

Tuesday, February 28 – Seed Savers Exchange
with Diane Ott Whealy, co-founder

It is free and open to the public.

Mahaska County Master Gardeners will hold a food drive for the Ecumenical Cupboard during their Speaker Series.



Beekeeping classes

will be held in Oskaloosa this winter. Classes will meet Thursday evenings **January 19-March 1, at 6:30 pm at the Mahaska County Extension office.** Cost for the seven classes is \$30.

For more information, or to enroll please call Craig Greene at 641-842-2112. Young people are encouraged to attend. This project is supported in part by Marion County Extension, Mahaska County Extension, and Back to Basics Bee Club.

**Mahaska County Master Gardeners
Speaker Series**

All sessions to be held at the Mahaska County Extension Office at 7 pm. **They are free and open to the public.** Master Gardeners will hold a food drive for the Ecumenical Cupboard at each session.

March 13 – Coal Mine Reclamation
with Judith Krebsbach, project coordinator,
Iowa Mines and Minerals Bureau

March 20– Bats; with Russ Benedict

March 27–Barn Quilts in Washington County
with Julie Mangold, co-chair

Come “Ask a Master Gardener” your gardening questions 6-6:30 pm prior to each speaker session.

ISU Extension (ISUE) Publications of Interest

- IC 472 **Household Insect Pest Management**
- PM 607 **Suggested Vegetable Varieties for the Home Garden**
- PM 713 **Indoor Plants**
- PM 874 **Starting Garden Transplants at Home**
- PM 1383 **Identification of Conifer Trees in Iowa**
- PM 1384 **Identification of Hardwood Trees in Iowa**
- PM 1429f **Power Lines and Trees**
- RG 105 **Garden Tips-Guidelines to Seasonal Chores**
- RG 214 **Choosing an Arborist**
- RG 322 **African Violets**
- RG 325 **Language of Flowers**
- RG 402 **Lighting and Houseplants**
- SUL 5 **Pruning Trees and Shrubs**
- RG 316 **Poinsettia Care**
- RG 322 **African Violets**
- PM 2004 **Home Landscape Design**
These publications (as well as many others) are available to purchase or download at any county Extension office or at the ISUE online store. The online store has changed their website. The address is now <https://store.extension.iastate.edu>

(Continued from page 7)

In addition to being ornamental, rose hips attract wildlife to the garden. Many birds and small animals will consume hips during the fall and into winter, if available. Rose hips are edible for people too. They tend to be high in Vitamin C and can be made into jams or jellies (with an equal part of sugar since they are quite tart). Rose hips are also sometimes dried and incorporated into teas. In fact, during World War II when Great Britain found it difficult to import citrus, a syrup was made from rose hips and used as an excellent substitute source of Vitamin C.

The tastiest rose hips come from shrub roses and old garden roses. Most shrub and old garden roses produce only one flush of bloom during the growing season. Deadheading (removal of spent flowers) is not necessary. In contrast, modern roses (hybrid tea, floribunda, and grandiflora cultivars) are repeat blooming and must be deadheaded to encourage continuous bloom. The hips on most modern roses are not as large or showy as those on shrub and old garden roses. Attractive, tasty hips are produced by many of the rugosa roses (*Rosa rugosa*) such as 'Alba', 'Frau Dagmar Hastrup', and 'Scabrosa', the sweetbrier rose (*Rosa rubrifolia*), and many other shrub and old garden roses. Other cultivars noted for attractive hips include, 'Adelaide Hoodless', 'Champlain', 'Henry Kelsey', 'Jens Munk', and 'Morden Centennial'.

Consider adding shrub or old garden roses with ornamental (and edible) hips to your garden this spring. *Maybe you can give your sweetheart a gift certificate for one for Valentine's Day for one of these shrub roses.* Just be careful...no jokes about hip size or you might be in for a lonely Valentine's Day celebration!

This article is modified from an article prepared by Cindy Haynes, Department of Horticulture, Iowa State University. It originally appeared in Horticulture and Home Pest News (HHPN) on February 3, 2010. More HHPN articles maybe found at <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/>.

Mahaska County Conservation Annual Bird Food Giveaway

Saturday, January 14th; 8-11 am

Conservation Center

Russell Wildlife Area

2254 200th St, New Sharon



Bring your bucket out to the Mahaska County Conservation Center to get free cracked corn for bird feeding. Each family will be limited to ten gallons of cracked corn.

Information about bird feeding and birdhouses will be available. For more information call the MCCB at 641-673-9327.

MCCB has many programs throughout the year for all ages, please call or visit their website www.mahaskaconservation.com/events/index for more information about upcoming events!

Christmas Tree & Greenery Recycling

If you had a “real” Christmas tree or greenery decorations this holiday season, please, allow the Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) to “Tree-cycle” it. Wreaths, swags and flocked trees will also be recycled by MCCB. **Trees will be collected Dec 26th through Jan 9th.**

Please remove all lights, wire, ornaments, tinsel, nails, stands, metal support and other materials that were not part of the tree. Some of the trees are chipped, foreign material can ruin a chipping machine. Non organic materials will not biodegrade. **If you used a plastic bag to remove the tree from your house – please remove the plastic bag at the drop off site.**

The trees will be used within the park system. They will have two collection points: Southern Iowa Fairgrounds and Russell Wildlife Center.



All-American Selections 2012

Following a trial period where these new, never-before-sold varieties are "Tested Nationally and Proven Locally®" the All American Selection (AAS) judges have submitted their evaluations and selected only the best performers as AAS Winners. These varieties are available for immediate sale and distribution. Commercial growers and retailers should contact their favorite seed supplier and request AAS Winner tags from tag and label suppliers. Home gardeners will find seeds and plants available in time for their 2012 gardening season.



Flower Award Winner—Ornamental Pepper ‘Black Olive’

The AAS Judges said this entry was a standout, especially in the southern gardens where heat was a major presence during the 2011 trials. All season long this beauty kept its upright habit with nicely draping leaves and dark purple/black fruit which appeared in small clusters along the stems. As summer progresses, the fruits mature to red giving a beautiful contrast against the dark purple foliage and bright purple flowers. Retailers and growers can sell this multi-use ornamental as a 20” border plant, a great color splash for containers or as a cut flower in mixed bouquets. Bred by Seeds By Design

Bedding Plant Award Winner—Salvia ‘Summer Jewel Pink’

Sister to earlier AAS Winner Salvia ‘Summer Jewel Red’, this dwarf sized, compact plant has a prolific bloom count throughout the growing season. As a bonus, the blooms appear almost two weeks earlier than the other pink salvias used as comparisons. And of course, the hummingbirds love pink, just as much as they do red! Commercial growers will appreciate the earliness, excellent pack performance and uniformity. Bred by Takii & Co, Ltd.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Vegetable Award—Pepper ‘Cayennetta’ F1

‘Cayennetta’ is an excellent tasting mildly spicy pepper that is very easy to grow, even for novice gardeners. This 3 to 4-inch chili pepper yielded bigger fruits from a very well branched upright plant. It required no staking which would make it a perfect plant for container or patio gardens. Unique to this variety is that it has good cold tolerance as well as dense foliage cover to protect the fruits from sun scorch and it handled extreme heat very well. This pepper is an all-around good choice no matter where you’re gardening. Market growers will benefit from the heavy yield and prolific fruit set from each plant. Everyone will love the excellent pepper flavor that outshone all the comparison varieties. Bred by Floranova Ltd.

Vegetable Award—Watermelon ‘Faerie’ F1

‘Faerie’ is a non-traditional watermelon in that it has a creamy yellow rind with thin stripes yet still yields sweet pink-red flesh with a high sugar content and crisp texture. Home gardeners will like growing something unique in their garden and the fact that the vines are vigorous yet spread only to 11’ means it takes up less space in the garden. Each 7-8” fruit weighs only four to six pounds making it a perfect family size melon. Professional growers will appreciate the disease and insect tolerance as well as the prolific fruit set that starts early and continues throughout the season. Bred by Known-You Seed Company.

Source: <http://www.all-americanselections.org/Winners.asp>

Roses have Hips too!

With Valentine's Day just around the corner – roses are on many people's mind. Cut roses are the perfect gift on Valentine's Day and other special occasions. Rose plants are also attractive additions to the home landscape.

A part of the rose plant that is often overlooked is the fruit or hips. While we try to avoid big hips on our bodies, big hips on a rose can be incredibly attractive. Rose hips mature in late summer or early fall and can be burgundy, scarlet-red, orange, or golden-yellow.

(Continued on page 8)