

# THE GARDENER'S DIRT

*The Latest Scoop from the Scott County Master Gardeners*

August 2009

## The Garden Growers' 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Garden Showoff

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Garden Showoff took place on Tuesday, June 23rd and Wednesday, June 24, 2009. Six gardens in the area south of Locust and between Division and Fairmount Streets, were part of the tour. Also included was one drive-by garden and Nahant Marsh, that was kept open after-hours just for the GGSO visitors.

Tuesday's weather was very hot and humid and for a moment it seemed that we'd have a thunderstorm. Luckily for us, we ended up with a strong wind that brought us cooler temperatures. Wednesday was better, weather-wise, plus we had more visitors due to a conflict with a Master Gardeners' event on Tuesday.

I am so happy to report that the event was a huge success. We had about 250 visitors who came from 25 different towns and from both states. 173 people signed for the door-prize drawing. In the past years, we had about 200 visitors.

Last year's GGSO participant, Deb Hughes, donated \$50 gift certificate for Aunt Rhodie's Landscaping to The Garden Growers to be used as a door prize. Kay Berry from Davenport was the lucky winner.

As in previous years, we had a great support from the local media. Both QC Times and Moline Dispatch published articles about our featured gardens and the event in general. QC Times even printed a map to help visitors find the gardens.

What we had in the past, and didn't have this year, were visitors' testimonials. I think that in the future, we should have a notebook at every garden and encourage visitors to write their impressions and suggestions.

As always, Master Gardeners were the ones who made the event possible. From serving on the planning committee, to staffing the event, the GGSO would not be a success it was without them.

*Report prepared by Julia Blazevic, The Garden Growers Director*

**Congratulations!**

Arnold Olson is the winner of June's Hort Clinic incentive prize. Arnold volunteered over 32 hours in the Hort clinic for June. (3 certified MG's had over 9 hrs, Arnold's name was drawn from all who qualified.) Thanks to all!

Arnold's prize was a 5# container of Corn Gluten Herbicide. Congratulations Arnold!

### Our Mission

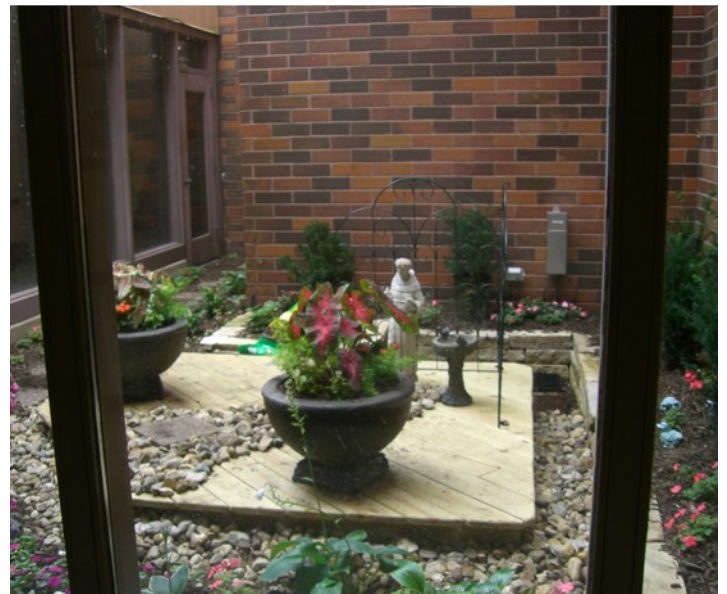
*To provide home horticulture information and education to the citizens of Scott County consistent with Iowa State University recommendations. We also strive to increase members' knowledge of horticulture through educational programs.*

# RIDGECREST ST. FRANCIS GARDEN 2009

After much work, the project is finally complete. Thank you to the following people for your help and ideas with the garden at Ridgecrest Village. Clayton Lloyd (building the deck), Bev Thies, JoAnn Garlough, Carolyn Beck, Janelle Swanberg, Nancy Gruber, Diane Williams, Doug Truesdell, Ann DeSalvo, and Pat Guzis.



The request was made to change this sad little garden with a statue of St. Francis into something more pleasing. Our plan was to turn this small garden into an Italian courtyard that showcased St. Francis and could be used to display a Christmas tree in the winter. I think we did it! They still need to stain the deck to match the mulch, but that must wait until the wood has a chance to dry out (if it ever stops raining.)



## Did You Know????

*Submitted by Ann DeSalvo*

- Suggestions for summer reading for gardeners:

**The Trail of the Wild Rose** - an English Garden Mystery by Anthony Eglin. Along with the solving of a crime connected with a plant collecting expedition in China there is a history of roses. This is a quote from the book— “From rose fossils found in rocks of the Oligocene epoch in North America, Europe, and Asia there is indisputable evidence that roses existed at least thirty-five million years ago.” This author also has written: **The Blue Rose, The Lost Garden, and The Water Lily Cross.**

You might check out another author, Ann Ripley, who writes gardening mysteries. The one I have read, **Death at the Spring Plant Sale**, was a fun read about a Garden Club and their members.



- The origin of the word “landscape” came from the Dutch in the 18th century when it meant a *painting* view of scenery to the landforms themselves. It is also a verb which means “to modify or ornament (a natural landscape) by altering the plant cover etc.”
- Do you want to make your own trough for a trough garden? There is a class Saturday, September 19th, 10:00 a.m. at VanderVeer Botanical Park. Fee is \$30.00 which includes all materials and a free sedum plant. To register call Paula at 563-323-3298.

**VOLUNTEER**

## - CORNER



Summer feels like it is almost over. The unseasonable cool and rainy weather has thrown us all for a loop along with some of our plants and vegetables. But all in all, gardens are looking lush and pretty. I wonder if the hot, Iowa summer will return this year? I'll vote for this mild weather any day!

It's been great weather for volunteering, watering is minimal, dead heading plants and pulling weeds is pleasurable. Now's a great time to finish up volunteer hours but no worries if you still need opportunities, autumn clean up duties will be available at the Extension Garden and other locations as well. Check your emails or let Marilyn or I know if you need help in fulfilling hours.

How are you doing with CEU's? Don't forget that the 2009 MG class will be starting in the fall and you can attend any of the trainings and count them as CEU's. A schedule will be posted in The Dirt regarding the September/October classes. Watch for the topics along with dates & time.

Til Next Time  
Peggy & Marilyn

## Meet Your Advisory Board Member: Bobbi Goodin, Treasurer



I love the outdoors! That's a fact. I was born, raised, and lived in Davenport, IA until I was 38 when my husband and I finally found an acreage in Southwest Scott County. We moved to the country and realized one of our lifetime dreams for our family - living in the country, having a small barn, a few horses, a huge yard, and lots of room for gardening.

My grandparents lived in small Iowa towns. When I was a small child summer vacations for me consisted of a week or two at each grandparent's home. One grandma loved her roses and her "glads", the other had a huge vegetable garden where she grew the biggest tomato plants I have ever seen. It was with them in their gardens where I learned all about growing radishes, beans, sweet corn, kohlrabi, watermelon, cantaloupe, and flowers. My Grandpa taught me to appreciate animals. He told me all about the different types of birds as he would point them out on our daily walks around their small town. Grandma's garden was where she took her daily break from work. They had many farmer friends who assisted in providing some of the best Iowa fertilizer around.

I am blessed with a wonderful family. A terrific husband, Jim, who never met a stranger! He retired last year from the Davenport Police Dept after 30 years of service. We have two wonderful kids, Eric and Carrie. Eric is married to Sarah and they have two adorable little girls, Aria (4) and Ellie (1). They live in the Kansas City area. Carrie is married to Chris and they have a terrific little boy, Alex (22 months – almost 2!) and they live in Davenport. I know most of you have probably heard me talk on and on about my family. They are the love of my life, just in line before the outdoors.

Professionally, I have worked on the Rock Island Arsenal for both the Department of the Army and Defense for over 30 years. My background is in accounting, budgeting, manpower, and human relations where I currently work for the newly formed organization, Rock Island Contracting Center. They asked me to come work for them in March this year to set up an office that provides HR, budget, and administrative support for over 300 contracting staff. It is a fantastic organization and I get to work with great people every day. My plan is to retire in 2013 and have more time to spend with my family, gardening, and nature watch.

I finally achieved my BA from St Ambrose University in 2004. My reward to myself for finishing my BA was to join the ISU Master Gardeners the fall immediately following graduation. I thought I would get my foot in the door to the organization before I retire, determine what areas I enjoyed most, and meet others who enjoyed gardening.

In MGs I can't seem to get past the Plant Sale/Fundraising committee. I do find time to dabble in a few other areas and this is my third year on the advisory board. The best part of belonging to the MG program is all you other people who really enjoy gardening, the outdoors, animals, and even rocks – like me! I found my niche of folks that are my favorite in the community and I feel very fortunate. I also discovered I only know about a thimble-full of information about gardening and I still have a LOT to learn.

Well, Jim and I simplified and moved to a new home in Blue Grass last August, after 13 years on our acreage. We now have a brand new palette/yard to plan and plant. Our 5 year plan is to put in two rain gardens and garden railroad – a combination of both our hobbies. More to learn...lots to do.

**News articles are needed for the Gardener's Dirt  
Please have articles to the Extension Office by August 15th**





# HORT CLINIC NEWS

Submitted by Bob Krush

- **CLIENTS:** During June 2009, the hort clinic assisted 326 clients. MGs handled 191 of the 326 clients (59 %). For April through June combined, MGs assisted 420 out of 684 total clients (61%). Tree and insect questions were the most popular in June.
- **STAFFING:** Between June 16<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>, MGs staffed the hort clinic on 38 of 42 available sessions or 90%. The MG staffing rate in the hort clinic for the year so far is as follows:
  - April 1-15 = 21/22 = 95.5%
  - April 16-May 15 = 42/44 = 95.5%
  - May 16- June 15 = 27/40 = 67.5%
  - June 16-July 15 = 38/42 = 90 %
  - Overall = 128/148 = 86.5%
- **FIRST-YEAR MGs:** Between June 16<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>, first-year MGs Michele Dane and Kate Gordon completed their required hort clinic service hours. Congrats!! Thanks go to Brian Thomas for volunteering extra sessions in the hort clinic during this time.
- **VETERAN MGs:** Many thanks to the following “veteran” active MGs who volunteered in the hort clinic between June 16<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>:

|                |               |                 |                |              |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| JoAnn Garlough | Sharon Helm   | Dan Hoeper      | Bob Krush      | Arnold Olson |
| Dick Sayles    | David Sunleaf | Karen Truesdell | Steph Wedeking |              |

So far this year, the veteran MG participation rate in the hort clinic is approximately 13%, i.e. 17 out of 135 veteran MGs have volunteered.

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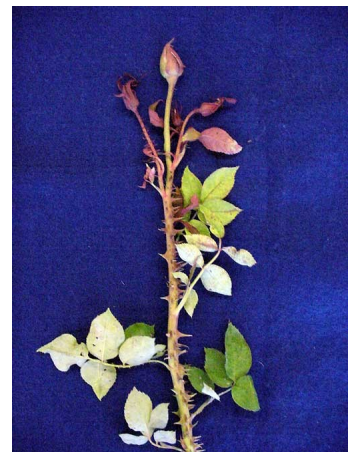
## Rose Rosette Disease *By Christine Engelbrecht, Department of Plant Pathology*

The last two times that I have volunteered in the hort clinic, I have dealt with rose rosette disease. I sure hope that this isn't becoming too widespread because it's hard to tell someone that they are losing members of their family. One couple came in with a sample and said they had noticed this problem over the last couple years and now had only one rose plant left out of about 20 that didn't have the symptoms of rose rosette. So it definitely spreads. The following information on rose rosette disease was extracted from the ISU Extension Horticulture and Home Pest News.

Rose rosette is a fairly common disease of roses that can cause significant damage. Although more commonly known on weedy multiflora roses, we have received several samples of cultivated roses showing symptoms typical of this disease.

Symptoms of rose rosette can vary greatly but typically include rapid growth of shoots, "witches' brooms" (tufts of branches growing close together), development of tufts of small, deformed, reddish leaves, and excessive thorniness. Affected plants typically decline over time and eventually die within one or two years. The deformation of leaves caused by rose rosette can be similar to the results of herbicide injury.

Rose cane showing symptoms of rose rosette, including deformed, red leaves and excessive thorniness.



The cause of rose rosette disease has not been determined. It is suspected to be caused by a virus, and is transmitted from plant to plant by tiny eriophyid mites. We do not know if other insects, such as aphids, may also be able to transmit the disease. Because we do not know the exact cause of rose rosette, it is impossible to confirm a diagnosis of this disease, and diagnoses are based solely on visual symptoms.

Unfortunately, a rose plant with rose rosette cannot be cured. Infected plants should be removed to prevent spread of the disease in the landscape.

# The Gardener's Dirt

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## Yard Clippings

*Submitted by Christine Rice*



A good garden may have some weeds.

—Proverb, page 14.

But a weed is simply a plant that wants to grow where people want something else. In blaming nature, people mistake the culprit. Weeds are people's ideas, not nature's.

—Anonymous, page 14.

When I have trouble writing, I step outside my studio into the garden and pull weeds until my mind clears—I find weeding to be the best therapy there is for writer's block.

—Irving Stone, page 17.

No garden without its weeds.

—Thomas Fuller, page 18.

Weeds never die.

—Danish proverb, page 17.

*A Gardener's Bouquet of Quotations*, Editor Maria Polushkin Robbins. New Jersey: The Ecco Press. 1993. Pages 14, 17, 18

If the down flies off a dandelion when there is no wind, it is a sure sign of rain. —A. Stoddard Kull, *Secrets of Flowers*, 1976, page 35.

I learned to love dandelions when I was a small child. Not only did I enjoy the delicious dandelion greens my mother gathered and prepared, but the bright yellow flower, with its wonderful composite construction, fascinated me. I never believed that spring had really come until I saw the first dandelion in bloom.

—Euell Gibbons, *Stalking the Wild Asparagus*, 1962, page 35.

Oft digging, removing and wedding ye see  
Makes hearbs the more wholesome and greater to be.

—Thomas Tusser, *A Hundredth Good Pointes of Husbandrie*, 1557, page 35.

*A Gardener's Nosegay*. Editor Jude Patterson. New York: Barnes and Noble. 2003. Pages 35,