



# THE GARDENER'S DIRT

*The Latest Scoop from the Scott County Master Gardeners*

January 2010

## 2010 Annual Master Gardener Meeting

Where: ISU Scott County Extension Office

When: 6:00 PM, January 13, 2010 (please call for reservations by phone 359-7577 or email [vgall@iastate.edu](mailto:vgall@iastate.edu))

- Food will be provided by A Guy and A Grill.
- Come meet and socialize with your fellow Master Gardeners and meet the new interns.
- New MG's will receive their certificates and pins.
- Other awards and recognitions!
- Sign up for the committees/projects you are interested in for 2010.



Once again this year the MG Advisory board has committed to providing items for a local food pantry. Please remember to bring a nonperishable food item(s) to the meeting.

**New this year:** An on line system for reporting/recording your MG service and continuing education hours. Come see how the system works and how you can use it to record your hours. Those without a computer or email will not be left out, come and see!



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### 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.*

# All-Iowa Horticulture Exposition II

*"It's a green place to be"*

**March 19-20 2010**

**Bridge View Center—Ottumwa, IA**

Join us for the second annual All-Iowa Horticulture Exposition, supported by over 20 Iowa horticulture associations and organizations. The Expo offers diverse, multi-dimensional activities, geared to the novice gardener, as well as the professional.

## **EXHIBIT HALL HOURS:**

Friday, March 19—11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Saturday, March 20—9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**

Internationally known plantsman **Dan Heims**

Famed garden designer and author **Stephanie Cohen**

## **EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Denny Schrock	All about Alliums: 20 Weeks of Bloom in Your Garden
Gary Whittenbaugh	Conifer Companions
Ann Marie VanDerZanden	Sustainability
Nick Christians	Is it Bluegrass?
Hank Taber	Trickle Irrigation Demonstration
Bill Hanson	Nut Wizard
Gary Whittenbaugh	Building Troughs
Kathleen Ziemer	Butterflies
Ray Wolf	Climate Change and Gardening
Linda Grieve	Deer, Bulbs and Perennials
Sue Williams	Planting & Growing Lilies in Pots
Tom Wahl	Chestnuts
Steve and Caroline Bertrand	Cool Plants
Kathleen Ziemer	Butterflies
Penny Brown Huber	Marketing/Pricing
JeanAnn Van Krevelen	What to Buy, What to Plant
Hank Taber	Vegetable Production in High Tunnels
Bob Henrickson	GreatPlants
Lois Girton	Ornamental Grasses
Ken Sailors	Aronia Berries

[www.iowahort.org](http://www.iowahort.org)

**PRESENTED BY:**



**IOWA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
University Extension

Funds for this project were provided by the USDA Specialty Crops Block Grant Program through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.



**Expert Speakers**



**Diverse Trade Show Exhibitors**



## Thoughts From The Belly

By: Dan Mays – [Ironbelly1@aol.com](mailto:Ironbelly1@aol.com)

I continued to be both amazed and inspired at the potential that computers offer the modern day gardener. Given the raw power that search engines such as Yahoo and Google offer, every gardener has the opportunity to expand their knowledge base as far as they care to go. Better yet are the serendipitous opportunities that lay waiting for those willing to pursue them. (Opportunities like the hyperlinks that I include in these articles when reading online.)

A few weeks ago I was doing some online research for a new presentation I was to give. I have begun to experiment with planting native shrubs in my home landscape. The [American Hazelnut](#) (*Corylus americana*) was the subject at hand and I wanted to “bone-up” on this native plant and garner additional perspectives. One of the websites that I stumbled into revealed that the Arbor Day Foundation has a [Hazelnut Project](#). Although this program is specifically aimed at [creating hybrids](#) for the nut industry, they rely heavily upon acquiring a wide variety of the native species stock from varied locations in order to capture the genes which offer the qualities they are looking for.

Most of the hazelnuts you eat are not our local natives; which tend to be smaller. The nuts you buy probably come from a [European Hazelnut](#), (*Corylus avellana*). Interestingly, this is the same species that gives us the spectacular freak of nature, [Harry Lauder’s Walking Stick](#) (*Corylus avellana* ‘Contorta’). Unfortunately, this European species (including ‘Harry’) is susceptible to Eastern Filbert Blight. I know this because Eastern Filbert Blight killed a [spectacular specimen](#) that I had growing in my yard.

An additional problem with the European species is that it is not very cold hardy – our Zone 5a can be “iffy” when not properly sited. By cross pollinating, the hope is to create an ever-better nut producing tree. Frankly, hybridization does not particularly interest me at this time. However, this project was requesting nuts for seed stock from anyone who had access to naturally occurring native hazelnut shrubs. Heck ... I run into Hazelnut shrubs on many of the various “nature stomps” I go on throughout the year.

I emailed the Arbor Day Foundation Hazelnut Project and told them about several of these locations. They also wanted information about the location where shrubs were found. I didn’t think directions like, “*Just west of the third gate where farmer Dean sometimes runs his cattle ...*” would be of much value. However – and here is where it gets interesting – I decided to check out Google Maps for longitude and latitude. Better than that; I was able to provide a [satellite photo](#) of the actual shrub! Within a few minutes, I got an email response, excitedly requesting that I send 20 to 50 nuts for them to grow. Although the next day I did go out and check, December is a little late in the year to be collecting nuts. Squirrels and other little critters like Hazelnuts too. Apparently the animals were pretty busy because I could not find a single nut. I responded back with an email stating that my submission would have to wait until next year.

In reflecting back, I am totally blown away by the fact that within a few minutes I was able to exchange emails with professors at the University of Nebraska and the University of New Jersey who are some of the leading Hazelnut experts in the world. In addition to that, I was able to send them a satellite photo of the very plant I was talking about located in a distant, remote location.

Don’t tell me about “the good old days”. These ARE the good old days!

May good electrons brighten your days throughout this New Year.

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



## Upcoming Classes & Events:

CEU's	Course #	Topic	When	Where	Cost	Instructor	Registration Information
*		Winter Gardening Fair	February 13, 2010	Kirkwood Center for Continuing Education 7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW Cedar Rapids, IA	\$49.00	Various	1-800-332-2055 More info & reg. form: http:// www.extension.iastate.edu/ linn.
2	-	Second Sunday Garden Forum: Simplify Your Garden	February 14, 2010 2:00-4:00 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library 123 South Linn Street Iowa City, IA	NC	Marcia Leeper	Register 319-356-5200 option 4
*	-	Shade Tree Short Course	February 24-26, 2010	Scheman Building ISU Ames, IA	TBA	Various	TBA
*	-	University of Illinois Extension and the Rock Island County Master Gardeners Present Nursery School: Lessons in Gardening	February 27, 2010 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	iWireless Center Moline, IL	TBA	Various	TBA
*	-	Hort in the Heartland	March 6, 2010	Clinton Community College	TBA	Various	TBA
2	-	Second Sunday Garden Forum: The Garden in Four Seasons	March 7, 2010 2:00-4:00 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library 123 South Linn Street Iowa City, IA	NC	Kelly Norris	Register 319-356-5200 option 4
2	-	ISU Scott County Extension Hort. Clinic Training	March 9, 2010 6:30-8:30 pm	ISU Scott County Extension 875 Tanglefoot Lane Bettendorf, IA	NC	Various	359-7577 ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardeners Only
*	-	2010 All-Iowa Hort Expo	March 19-20 2010	Bridge View Center 102 Church Street Ottumwa, IA	TBA	Various	TBA
*	-	Art of Gardening	March 20, 2010	Muscatine Community College	TBA	Various	TBA
*	-	QCCA Lawn & Garden Show	March 26-28, 2010	QCCA Expo Center 2621 4th Avenue Rock Island, IL	TBA	Various	Walk in
2	-	Second Sunday Garden Forum: Great Plants for the Great Plains	April 11, 2010 2:00-4:00 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library 123 South Linn Street Iowa City, IA	NC	Robert Henrickson	Register 319-356-5200 option 4
*	To be determined by sessions attended. Submit proof of sessions attended to the ISU Scott County Extension Horticulturist.						



## Yard Clippings

Submitted by Christine Rice



Garden tools have a special meaning. They represent one of the great milestones in human evolution, when man began to grow his own food. The first tool was probably a pointed stick to scratch the earth and plant a seed, a revolutionary act that may mark the real beginning of civilization, the transition from hunter to farmer and the first settled communities. Then he learned to attach a shell or sharp stone to the stick and he had a primitive hoe and progress was on its way.  
–William Longgood, page 70.

The lesson I have thoroughly learnt, and wish to pass on to the others, is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives. I rejoice when I see anyone, and especially children, inquiring about flowers, and wanting gardens of their own, and carefully working in them. For love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies, but always grows and grows to an enduring and ever-increasing source of happiness.  
–Gertrude Jekyll, page 84.

*A Gardener's Bouquet of Quotations*, Editor Maria Polushkin Robbins. New Jersey: The Ecco Press. 1993. Pages 70, 84.

No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden.  
–Thomas Jefferson, page 16.

The gardening bug can bite at any moment.  
–Barbara Damrosch, page 17.

Gardening is the kind of self-prescribed preventative medicine, good for all ills. –Sheryl London, page 17.

Love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies.  
–Gertrude Jekyll, page 18.

I look upon the pleasure which we take in a garden as one of the most innocent delights in human life.  
–Cicero, page 19.

If you have never had a garden, you cannot understand, and if you have had a garden, you will know that it would take a whole book to describe all that came to pass there.  
–Frances Hodgson Burnett, pg 22.

*The Gardener's Guide to Life*. Editor Criswell Freeman. Nashville, TN: Walnut Grove Press. 1997. Pages 16, 17, 18, 19, 22.

# The Gardener's Dirt

Scott County Extension  
875 Tanglefoot Lane  
Bettendorf, IA 52722-1690  
(563) 359-7577 Fax (563) 355-6569  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/scott](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/scott)

## Did You Know????

*Submitted by Ann DeSalvo*

Did you think Rhubarb was just Rhubarb?

Rhubarb wasn't originally known as a food plant. Beginning with the Greeks, dried rhubarb root has been used medicinally—primarily as a laxative for about 4,500 years. Russia had an early state monopoly for the rhubarb trade it had with China and by 1638 had a Department of Rhubarb. Dried rhubarb proved so valuable that in 1765 some of the proceeds of Crown Rhubarb sale were used in the building of St. Isaac's Cathedral in St. Petersburg. Today Medicinal rhubarb is sold as da huang and is available in health food stores. Rhubarb didn't become popular as a food item until sugar became cheaper and more available. By 1778 it was a food plant in Europe and appeared in America in 1790-1800 and sold as produce in Mass. in 1822.



There are about 64 varieties being grown on an Experiment Farm in Palmer, Alaska. The collection is part of the Arctic and Sub-arctic Plant Genetic Resources Unit and maintained by the Department of Agriculture's Research Unit.

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