



THE GARDENER'S DIRT

The Latest Scoop from the Scott County Master Gardeners

February 2010

Hort Clinic Training for MG Interns Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Cyclone Room

If you are a MG Intern, you **MUST** attend this training!

If you are not an intern and would like to brush up on your Hort Clinic skills, you are welcome to attend. There are NO CEU credits for this training—only service hours.

Holiday Party Update

Rhonda Cooper & Sally Freeman, co-chairs of the Social Committee

A **BIG** thank you to all the members of the Social Committee who helped make our Holiday Party at Butterworth Center on December 16th a success.

The evening involved door prizes, an ornament exchange, and our game of choice, Trivia.

We enjoyed delicious soups, sweet goodies, and our always enjoyed yummy punch.

Rhonda and I want to thank the following social committee members:

Michelle Gheer	Lois Fradel	Vickie Liebke	Bonnie Fox
Joleen Bakken	Carolyn Beck	Judy Blake	Sally Stewart
Jan Martin	Ed Sharkness	Nancy Rudnick	

The yummy punch recipe will be disclosed in a future Gardener's Dirt newsletter.

The following have items to be picked up in the MG office:

Hal Davis	Naomi Haerjens	Melanie Hayes	Sue Horan
Pat Knopick	Bob Krush	Dee Larson	Pam Looney
Kevin McMahon	Judy Mumm	Joani Nagle	Joan Russell
Brian Thomas	Jill Vogt	Bill Wyatt	Kathy Wolfe

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.

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday January 13th at the ISU Scott County Extension Office. Dinner was served to 93 attendees and was provided by “Two Guys and a Grill”. After dinner the business meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 8:00 p.m., credit 1 service hour to those in attendance.

After last year’s minutes were approved and a report from our Treasurer, Bobbi Goodin, the election of the Advisory Board took place. Four Master Gardeners were elected to two year terms. JoAnn Garlough was re-elected and Tom Dywiak, Marylin Bradley and Chuck Doss were newly elected, replacing retiring Board members, Harry Healy, Rich Craddick and Kathy Wolfe. Thanks to Harry, Rich and Kathy for their contribution to the Board.

The 2010 Master Gardener Interns were introduced and the “graduating” 2009 MG Interns were recognized for completing their requirements and achieving Master Gardener status. Congratulations to all of you, I look forward to working with all of you.

Duane reviewed the new process for reporting service hours and CEUs on line. If anyone has any trouble with this process or database, please contact Duane for help. I encourage all of you to enroll quickly and submit hours and CEUs in a timely fashion.

Master Gardeners with 5 years (Peggy Dykes, Bobbi Goodin, Pat Knopick, Kathy Wolfe, Bob Krush, Janet Lange, Bev Thies, Jill Vogt, Dianne Williams), 10 years (Sally Freeman, Melanie Hayes, Karen Stotz, Ray Wolf) and 15 years (Connie Huber, Arnold Olson) of service were recognized and given certificates.

Recognition for achieving 100 annual service hours (Karen Crawford, Bobbi Goodin, Kathy Hoepfer, Bob Krush, Dan Mays, Nancy Nelson, Arnold Olson, Ruth Ottesen, David Sunleaf), as well as 500 (Karen Crawford, Bob Krush, Pam Looney) and 1000 (Nancy Nelson) cumulative service hours was given to some very dedicated Master Gardeners. Congratulations to all, especially Nancy Nelson for achieving her milestone and joining the 1000 hour club, adding her name to the plaque.

We welcomed a transfer Master Gardener from Linn County, Lona Moore.

Afterwards the Board met and elected officers. Your 2010 MG Advisory Board consists of:

Vito Fiore	Chair
JoAnn Garlough	Vice-Chair
Marylin Bradley	Secretary
Bobbi Goodin	Co-Treasurer
Chuck Doss	Co-Treasurer
Tom Dywiak	Member
Dick Sayles	Member
Kathy Hoepfer	Member

Non Voting Members

Marianne Lemon	New Class Representative
Peggy Dykes	Volunteer Coordinator
Marilyn McAllister	Volunteer Coordinator
Becky Bray	ISU Staff Representative
Duane Gissel	ISU Staff Representative

Thanks to all of you who brought a non-perishable food item, they were distributed to All Saints Lutheran and to Friendly House.

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



ISU SCOTT COUNTY EXTENSION MG 2010 ANNUAL MEETING



Book Review

Submitted by Bev Thies

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed

By Jared Diamond

The River Action Environmental Book Club selected the above book for its January meeting. The title intrigued me and located a copy at the Bettendorf Library. I found the book extremely interesting.

Published in 2005, the author has included great detail within its 525 pages. Part One is about Modern Montana. Part Two is on Past Societies, such as the Greenland Norse colonies. Part Three addresses Modern Societies including Rwanda and Haiti, and Part Four looks at Practical Lessons. Mr. Diamond has five main themes throughout the book: climate change, environmental problems, a society's relationship with friendly as well as hostile societies, and how a society responds to its problems.

Invasive plants are a huge environmental concern. Two of the most problematic for Montana are the Spotted Knapweed with its twenty foot roots and the Leafy Spurge which has infested over 5,000,000 acres throughout the State. During a fourteen year period, the inspections of imported materials into China's Shanghai Harbor discovered over 200 species of foreign weeds. Conversely, Chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease, pests from China or nearby East Asia, were brought to North America wiping out thousands of trees.

Jared Diamond, born in 1937, is professor of geography and physiology at UCLA. An American scientist, he has expanded into evolutionary biology. Mr. Diamond is the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his book *Guns, Germs, and Steel*.

Thoughts From The Belly

By: Dan Mays – Ironbelly1@aol.com

I was recently reading my freshly delivered February/March 2010 issue of *Horticulture Magazine*. I have to say that the number of my garden magazine subscriptions has steadily been declining over the years because most of them lack substance or merely regurgitate the current gardening fad being promoted by marketing. It is not surprising to me that an unprecedented number of publications have disappeared over the past few years. I realize that times are changing but one thing has not changed – subscribers demand quality content.

Although many of the articles in *Horticulture Magazine* are of little relevance to me, I have generally found the quality of content sufficient enough to maintain a subscription. I typically read each issue trying to glean pearls of wisdom and dollops of information for future reference and possible adaptation.

I just read with interest an article written by Pam Bagget titled, "Swept Away". The article is about planting a single plant in large drifts or "sweeps" – the term she prefers – for visual impact. Since Pam gardens in North Carolina, I usually ignore the plants she recommends. Instead, I concentrate on the "how" and "why" portions of her writings.

Having read some of her books and many of her articles over the years, I know that she is not afraid to buck the current trends. Her advice usually displays hands-on experience and thoughtful insight. The snippet that caught my attention was, "*Yet in our gardens, we often sacrifice serenity for non-stop stimulation.*" Ms. Bagget's observation is absolutely correct. This is a stellar example of her thoughtful insight; an element missing from the typical garden article.

My lovely wife, Cyndia, and I both work. When we get home, we need a soothing "time out". I depend upon the landscape of my home to deliver some serenity, not a visual Metallica hard rock concert. Sure, I enjoy the occasional "wow plant" tastefully inserted as a focal point in a garden vignette. However, a garden landscape is a sum of its parts. If one were to use a novel as an analogy, the story quickly loses interest when you over use the word, "Wow", and exclamation points as punctuation.

I prefer landscapes that offer a flowing quality. A good concept here might be a gently flowing stream. Just the mention of the word "stream" seems to imbue a sense of serenity. Occasional ripples and unexpected frog plops merely add a joyous dimension. However, I think most would agree that a short section of rapids goes a long way.

Gardens that attempt to feature only "wow plants" are guaranteed to be lacking. I always try to be mindful that, in many situations, success is attained by remembering: "*What you do is often not as important as how you do it.*"

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
2		Daylilies	February 20, 2010 10:00 a.m.—Noon	Linn Co Extension Office 3279 7th Avenue Suite 140 Marion, IA	NC	Zora Ronan	319-377-9839 Beginning February 5th
*		Pruning Trees & Shrubs	February 23, 2010 6:30 p.m.	Linn Co Extension Office 3279 7th Avenue Suite 140 Marion, IA	NC	Gene Frye	319-377-9839 Beginning February 8th
*	-	Shade Tree Short Course	February 24-26, 2010	Scheman Building ISU Ames, IA	See website	Various	www.ucs.iastate.edu
*	-	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	See website	Various	Online at: https://webs.extension.uiuc.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=3974
*	-	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
2		Organic Gardening	March 18, 2010 6:00—8:00 p.m.	Linn Co Extension Office 3279 7th Avenue Suite 140 Marion, IA	NC	Ellen Skripsky & Phil Pfister	319-377-9839 Beginning February 4th
*	-	2010 All-Iowa Hort Expo	March 19-20 2010	Bridge View Center 102 Church Street Ottumwa, IA	See website	Various	http://www.iowahort.org/
*		Iowa Wine Growers Association Annual Conference	March 19—20, 2010	Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn and Conference Center, Des Moines, Iowa	See website	Various	Joan O'Brien at joano@agribiz.org or http://iowawinegrowers.org
*	-	Art of Gardening	March 20, 2010 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.	Muscatine Community College Strahan Hall 152 Colorado Street Muscatine, IA	Call or email	Various	Muscatine Extension Office 563-263-5701 sgrimm@iastate.edu
*	-	QCCA Lawn & Garden Show	March 26-28, 2010	QCCA Expo Center 2621 4th Avenue Rock Island, IL	TBA	Various	Walk in
NA		ILLOWA Annual Orchid Show	March 26—28, 2010	Wallace's Garden Center 2605 Devils Glen Rd Bettendorf, IA	TBA	TBA	TBA
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
*		Dwarf Conifers	May 10, 2010	Oelwein & Independence IA	Car pool expenses	Gary Whittenbaugh	319-377-9839 Beginning May 10th
*	To be determined by sessions attended. Submit proof of sessions attended to the ISU Scott County Extension Horticulturist.						



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Nancy Nelson, the latest ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardener to be added to the 1000 hours plaque. Thank you Nancy!

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



Yard Clippings



Late February days; and now at least,
Might you have thought that
Winter's Woe is past;
So fair the sky was and so soft the air.
–William Morris, page 214

Probably more pests can be controlled in an armchair in
front of a February fire with a garden notebook and a
seed catalog than can ever be knocked out in hand-to-
hand combat in the garden.
–Neely Turner, page 215.

There seems to be so much more winter than we need
this year.
–Kathleen Norris, page 219.

A Gardener's Bouquet of Quotations, Editor Maria
Polushkin Robbins. New Jersey: The Ecco Press.
1993. Pages 214, 215, 219.

He who plants a garden plants happiness.
–Chinese Proverb, page 24.

If you want to be happy for an hour, have a party. If
you want to be happy for a week, kill your pig and eat
it. But if you want to be happy all your life, become a
gardener.
–Chinese Saying, page 25.

Man masters nature not by force but by understanding.
–Jacob Bronowski, page 33.

A gardener is the spirit of the garden, the organizing
force, the heart and soul of it all.
–Jeff Cox, page 36.

The Gardener's Guide to Life. Editor
Criswell Freeman. Nashville, TN:
Walnut Grove Press. 1997. Pages 24, 25, 33, 36.