

# THE GARDENER'S DIRT

*The Latest Scoop from the Scott County Master Gardeners*

April 2010

## **City of Bettendorf Public Works Day (Recycle)**

*Submitted by Ed Sharkness, Committee Chair*

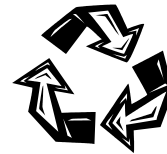
We support the City of Bettendorf Public Works Day (Recycle.) We educate the public regarding composting and answer questions with the portable horticulture clinic. This is a one day program.

Our next action day is Saturday, May 22, 2010. The location is inside the Bettendorf Public Works Building, located at 4403 Devils Glen Road. The building is set back one block behind the Post Office. The work shifts are from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Travel time is additional. The maximum service hours available are the two shifts of two hours each plus travel time. Site preparation is also available.

To sign up, call Scott County Extension at 359-7577.

Activities are:

1. Hand out pamphlets
2. Manage the portable horticulture clinic.
3. Monitor the televised education.
4. Omnibus person.



The Master Gardeners' Social Committee announces this year's events  
Garden Walks beginning in May  
Fall Picnic Sunday, October 3  
Holiday Party

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Coming this May another great season of Garden Walks  
Featuring the Master Gardeners of Scott County.

Want to be part of the action?

Contact Vicki Liebbe 340-5937 or email [vjpickle@netins.net](mailto:vjpickle@netins.net) to put you garden  
on the must see list.

### **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.*



- The snow has melted and we are definitely on the path to spring which gets me in the mood to visit garden centers. I'm always looking for a new perennial or maybe a little whimsical piece of garden art. Do you have a favorite garden store or have you found an out-of-the-way specialty store that caters to gardeners? Please forward me the name and location along with a sentence or two why you like it. It will be fun to share and learn about new places. I'm always interested in a road trip especially if it includes lunch.
- You'll be hearing more information in the next two months about the GET GROWING PLANT SALE sponsored by the Scott County Extension Master Gardeners. Please get involved by volunteering for the day, donating plants and of course shopping. It's our main fundraiser that supports MG education outreach. If you didn't get a chance to come to the planning meeting in March, contact the committee co-chairs, Kathy Hoeper at [kjhoeper@msn.com](mailto:kjhoeper@msn.com) or Kathy Wolfe at [keflow1@ecoisp.com](mailto:keflow1@ecoisp.com) and GET GROWING your volunteer hours.
- This year there will not be a letter sent out regarding your committee choices as in the past...saving trees and postage. Committee choices are posted on the ISU Extension website, Master Gardener page. Click on 2010 Committee List and you'll find a list of all committees and volunteers. Committee chairs are shown in bold and their contact information can be found right below the Committee List link. If you are not listed and want to sign up to work on a certain committee, please contact me at [peggylea52@msn.com](mailto:peggylea52@msn.com). Plus you will always be notified of volunteer opportunities in the "Dirt" and emails from committee chairs asking for help or notifying us about meetings or work days. Just because you signed up for a certain committee, doesn't mean you can't volunteer on another project that is of interest to you.
- Til next month....Peggy & Marilyn

"Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"".

*Robin Williams*

## Mother's Day Container Sale

We will sell planted containers for Mother's Day giving. \$25 for shade, sun or herb pots. See the flyer on the next page for all the purchasing and delivery details. A PDF of the flyer will be emailed to all Master Gardeners.

All MGs can help by making copies of the flyer or calling the Extension Office for printed copies to pin up at your work, church, public bulletin board or give them to neighbors and friends. You can forward the flyer email to everyone in your address book, the more that know about these great planted containers the more orders we will receive and the more money we can earn for ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardener community education programs.

You can also volunteer to help with this money making project. Help is needed to plant the containers on Sunday, April 11th and to transport them on May 6th. If you are interesting in helping, email Kathy Hoeper at [kjhoeper@msn.com](mailto:kjhoeper@msn.com), on the subject line type **MG Volunteer for Mothers Day Containers**.

Don't forget to order one for your mom and one for your self.

*Mother's Day flyer on next page,*

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY SCOTT COUNTY EXTENSION  
MASTER GARDENERS HAS THE PERFECT MOTHER'S DAY GIFT...**



# *Mother's Day* **CONTAINERS**

**Shade  
Sun  
Herb**

**\$25** each

- Your mom will think it's the best Mother's Day gift ever!
- Choose shade, sun or herb containers.
- 3 to 5 plants in a 10" decorative pot
- Each pot is planted by the ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardeners with plants from Allen's Grove Greenhouses especially chosen to create a container that blooms all summer long.
- **Deadline for orders and payment is April 9, 2010**
- **Call the ISU Scott County Extension Office to order: 563-359-7577**
- **Your container will be available for pick up at the Extension Office, 875 Tanglefoot Lane, Bettendorf, IA 52722 on Friday May 7th between Noon-6:00pm or Saturday May 8th between 9:00am-2pm.**



*Your purchase will help support the ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardener program and its many projects.*

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
University Extension

SCOTT COUNTY EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS PRESENTS



GET GROWING

# Plant Sale



**May 8th, 9:00am to 2:00pm**  
**ISU Scott County Extension Office**  
**875 Tanglefoot Lane, Bettendorf**

**local perennials**  
*grown by Master Gardeners*

~  
**Mother's Day**  
**annual baskets**

~  
**demonstrations**

~  
**expert advice**

~  
**chance to win a**  
**10' garden design**  
*& many more great prizes*

It's a great time to add a flower garden to your landscape. Or replace your annuals with plants that come up each year. Pick from a wide selection of perennials, many are grown and donated by ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardeners.

Not sure what to choose? Ask a Master Gardener for expert advice. They can help you choose the right plant for your garden.

Great prices. Good variety. Cash or check.

What are you waiting for?

**GET GROWING!**

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/scott/>  
Phone: 563-359-7577

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
University Extension

# THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO, READ BELOW...

## and Get Growing!

### Event: GET GROWING Plant Sale

**Location:** ISU Scott County Extension Office, 875 Tanglefoot Dr., Bettendorf

**Public Sale:** May 8, 2010—9am to 2pm

**Master Gardener Pre-Sale:** May 7, 2009—6 to 8pm

### Promotion:

All MG's will be emailed a PDF of the plant sale flyer, please forward to all your friends, relatives, co-workers and anyone else who may be interested. Print out copies to hang up at your church, work, club, organization or any other public place. If you don't have a color printer, just call the Extension Office and they can print copies for you to pick up. For a successful sale, we need your help in getting the word out.

### Plant donations:

If you need pots—please pick them up from the Extension Office. There are some in the Master Gardener supply room, if not, check in the kitchen. Please read Sue Laiman's article on the next page on how to treat your perennials for the sale. A \$5.00 coupon will be given to all MGs who donate plants for the sale. This coupon may be used toward your purchase at the MG Pre-Sale or at the Public Sale. Also don't forget that you can count the time it takes you to divide and pot your plant donations as volunteer hours.

### Drop off your plant donations:

Sat., May 1 9am to 12pm

Wed., May 5 12-6pm

Thur., May 6 12-6pm

Fri., May 7 12-6pm

### 5 points to remember when donating plants:

- Pot size 3-4" up to large 3-5 gallon pots
- No woody plants, no annuals.
- Use the Plant Donation Form to identify your plants, preferably with complete botanical name including cultivar if appropriate. Plant donation form will be emailed to you.
- No diseased plants (or insect infested)
- Pot up 2 weeks or more ahead of the sale to allow the plants to become established in the pot. It's very important to have a nice display—no newly-dug, wilted-in-the-pot plants please.



### Other donations:

- We need 3-4" to 3-5 gallon pots. Please clean with a 1 part bleach to 10 parts water. Deliver to the Extension Office and put them in the kitchen.
- Gently used containers to re-sell to the public and other MGs.
- Gently used garden or garden related items to sell at the plant sale.
- Cardboard boxes for people to carry their purchased plants to their cars.
- Consider lending your wagons and garden carts to be used the day of the sale.



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### **Educational or demonstration booths needed:**

The Plant Sale planning committee is looking for Master Gardeners or MG Committees who would like to do a demo or information booth for the plant sale. We have one booth already! Must be educational and garden related. Can be a fundraising project also. Committees can show off current projects and share the history of past projects. Email your ideas to Kathy Hoyer at [kjhoyer@msn.com](mailto:kjhoyer@msn.com)—on the subject line please start out with **MG Demo Booth**.

### **Miscellaneous:**

Master Gardeners will again be able to purchase flats of perennials and herbs from Swift Greenhouse. More information and details will be emailed to you from the Plant Sale Committee. Swift has made it easy this year on their website for dial-up internet users to be able to see parts of the catalog without having to download the whole catalog. Also any MG can go to the Extension Office and check out the catalog and ask to have it be downloaded. Check out their website and watch for the detailed email about making a purchase! <http://www.swiftgreenhouses.com/CATALOGS.htm>

Not signed up yet to volunteer for the plant sale? What are you waiting for? *Get Growing*. There are many opportunities for donated items or volunteer time. The success of the plant sale depends on all of us and the Fundraising Committee is most appreciative of everyone's help. Contact Kathy Hoyer at [kjhoyer@msn.com](mailto:kjhoyer@msn.com)—on the subject line please start out with **MG Plant Sale—I want to help**.

## **Divide and Conquer—A Plant Potting Primer**

*Submitted by Sue Laimans*

It won't be long before we are scouring our gardens in search of plant divisions to pot up for our annual plant sale. We want them to look their best so here is a quick refresher ....

1. Pots, with drain holes in the bottom, should be cleaned and rinsed in a 10 percent bleach solution.
2. On a cloudy day, if possible, dig up seedlings, divide plants & pot them at least 10 days before the sale so they will have time to recuperate from transplant shock.
3. You can buy potting soil but since I use new soil in my containers each spring, I use that previous year's soil for the sale pots.
4. When digging up volunteers (seedlings), try to avoid disturbing the roots.
5. Using the right tools to divide makes a big difference. Dig up the plant & remove the soil enough where you can clearly see the crown of the plant and root system. Divide the plant so each division has at least 2 to 3 buds & a good root system. Some plants, like daisies & mums, can be pulled apart gently with your fingers. Others are more difficult & though you may struggle, you will conquer! Use pitchforks back to back to pull apart the roots of hostas or siberian iris or use a sharp spade. I find an old butcher knife comes in handy with threadleaf coreopsis and garden shears with 'Pumila' astilbe.
6. Pot up the plants and water them thoroughly. Place them in a shady spot for about a week or until they look fully recovered. Then provide the amount of light they enjoy.
7. Be sure to provide plant info on our plant donation form. If you are unsure, list as much as you know.
8. Before bringing them to the Extension, water well and wipe the pots. Trim off any dead leaves & blooms or scraggly stems.
9. If you have never divided a particular plant before, do some research on it first. Some plant roots can cause a skin rash so be sure to wear gloves. Others, should never be divided such as Gas Plant and Carolina Lupines.



***Get growing!***

# HORT CLINIC NEWS

Submitted by Bob Krush

On March 9, 2010, thirty Master Gardeners attended training on “How to Work in the Hort Clinic”. Nineteen of the 21 2010 interns attended the training session. Interns who missed the training and/or have not yet signed up for your required Hort Clinic sessions should contact your mentor. Interns have already signed up for a total of 39 hort clinic sessions.

Interns will be mentored in the Hort Clinic by JoAnn Garlough, David Sunleaf, Karen Truesdell, and Bob Krush. Many thanks to these MGs for volunteering for this important activity. The mentors assigned to each of the interns are as followed:

JoAnn Garlough (mentor) -- Jenny Canier, Becky Danner, Kent Dexter, Linda Getz, Naomi Haertjens

Dave Sunleaf (mentor) -- Heidi Harris Thomas, Matt Hogan, Sue Horan, Linda Kuffer, Dee Larson, Marianne Lemon

Bob Krush (mentor) -- Kevin McMahon, Judy Mumm, Joni Nagle, Tana Odean, Abbie Sawyer, Jean Schaeffer, Marla Tedesco

Karen Truesdell (mentor) -- Gina Truesdell, Carol Wagner, Ruth Wilwerding

The Hort Clinic opens for Master Gardener staffing on April 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through October. When you want to sign up to work in the Hort Clinic, you can find dates and times which are available by looking at the Hort Clinic calendar online at <http://calendar.yahoo.com/scottcomg>. Then call the extension office at 359-7577 or e-mail Joy at [venhorst@iastate.edu](mailto:venhorst@iastate.edu) to sign up. You can also stop by the ISU Scott County Extension Office to sign up.

## Upcoming Classes & Events:

CEU's	Course #	Topic	When	Where	Cost	Instructor	Registration Information
2	-	Hands on Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop	April 9, 2010 7:00—9:00 p.m.	ISU Scott County Extension 875 Tanglefoot Dr Bettendorf, IA 52722	\$30.00 each or \$50.00 for two family members	Dr. Patrick O'Malley	Call ISU Scott County Extension 563-359-7577
2	-	Hostas	April 10, 2010 10:00—Noon	Linn Co Extension Office 3279 7th Avenue Suite 140 Marion, IA	NC	Jay McWherter	319-377-9839 or lillieb@iastate.edu
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
2	-	Container Gardening	April 15, 2010 7:00—9:00 p.m.	ISU Scott County Extension 875 Tanglefoot Dr Bettendorf, IA 52722	\$5.00	Sylvia Seymour	Call ISU Scott County Extension 563-359-7577
2	-	Spring Fever Mini-Symposium	April 17, 2010 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.	Iowa Arboretum 1875 Peach Ave Madrid, IA	See website	Scott Ogden Lauren Springer Ogden	<a href="http://www.iowaarboretum.org/">www.iowaarboretum.org/</a>
2	-	Four Season Landscaping	April 22, 2010 7:00—9:00 p.m.	ISU Scott County Extension 875 Tanglefoot Dr Bettendorf, IA 52722	\$5.00	Dan Mays	Call ISU Scott County Extension 563-359-7577
*		Dwarf Conifers	May 10, 2010	Oelwein & Independence IA	Car pool expenses	Gary Whittenbaugh	319-377-9839 Beginning May 10th
1	-	Not your usual Kitchen Garden	June 5, 2010 9:00—10:00 a.m.	Bickelhaupt Arboretum 340 South 14th St Clinton, IA 52732	TBA	Linda Cornelius Arb Vol & MG	TBA
0	-	Gold Coast Blooms Garden Tour	July 10, 2010	Davenport, IA	TBA	NA	For details 563-326-2894 <a href="http://www.davenportgoldcoast.com">www.davenportgoldcoast.com</a>
*	-	All Hort Field Day	July 29, 2010	Horticultural Research Station located 4 miles north of Ames	TBA	Various	TBA
*	To be determined by sessions attended. Submit proof of sessions attended to the ISU Scott County Extension Horticulturist.						

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



# 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

Submitted by Christine Rice



True gardeners cannot bear a glove between the sure touch and the tender root. –May Sarton, “As Does New Hampshire,” 1967, page 27.

Now ‘tis the spring, and weeds are shallow-rooted;  
Suffer them now and they’ll o’er grow the garden.  
–William Shakespeare, *King Henry VI*, 1592, page 35.

That [flower] which all others yields the sweetest smell in the air, is the violet, specially the white double violet, which comes twice a year; about the middle of April, and about Bartholomew-tide.

–Francis Bacon, “Of Gardens,” 1625, page 61.

Stolen fruit is sweet. –English Proverb, page 66.

*A Gardener's Nosegay*. Editor Jude Patterson. New York: Barnes and Noble. 2003. Pages 27, 35, 61, 66.

The area of a handsome Garden may take up thirty or forty Acres, not more.  
–Philip Miller, the *Gardener's Dictionary*, (1724), page 90.

Style is a matter of taste, design a matter of principles.  
–Thomas Church, *Gardens Are For People*, 1955, page 94.

*The Quotable Gardener*, Editor Charles Elliot. New York: The Lyons Press. 1999. Pages 90, 94.

One of the small delights of gardening, undramatic but recurring, is when phlox or columbines seed themselves in unplanned places. –Mirabel Osler, page 83.

*A Gardener's Bouquet of Quotations*, Editor Maria Polushkin Robbins. New Jersey: The Ecco Press. 1993. Page 83.