



THE GARDENER'S DIRT

The Latest Scoop from the Scott County Master Gardeners

July 2010

July Garden Walks

Submitted by Vicki Liebke

Master Gardeners are invited to more garden walks throughout the month of July. Everyone is encouraged to visit fellow master gardeners' gardens. Your time will be rewarded by seeing lovely spaces and by interacting with other garden enthusiasts. Here is the schedule at press time:

Saturday, July 3 from 9 am to 4 pm: Sylvia Seymour, 1722 W 59th St., Davenport

Tuesday, July 6, from 6 to 8 pm: Michelle Gheer, 2621 Pershing Ave., Davenport
Sandra Jurgens, 1140 E Dover Ct., Davenport
Dianne Williams, 3220 Arlington Cir., Davenport

Sunday, July 18 from 1 to 2:30 pm: Joleen Bakken, 5275 Kristi Lane, Bettendorf
Bill Brunkan, 4006 E 59th St., Davenport
Michelle Dane, 23 Oakbrook Dr., Davenport

from 2:30 to 4 pm: Master Gardener Extension Garden
875 Tanglefoot Lane, Bettendorf

Thursday, July 22 from 6 to 8 pm: Vito Fiore, 5067 Pigeon Creek Trail, Bettendorf

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Submitted by Vicki Liebke

All Master Gardeners and their families are invited to an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 22, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. on the Scott County Extension Office lawn. The Social Committee will be serving ice cream with a variety of toppings and other tasty treats. Attendees will have an opportunity to tour the extension gardens too.

Please RSVP to Joy 359-7577 by Friday, July 20. The ice cream social is a new event for this year and the social committee is looking forward to a great turn out!



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.

**City of Bettendorf Public Works Day (Recycle)
Education re Composting**

Ed Sharkness, Chair

Saturday, May 22, 2010 was a pleasant spring day. Our Master Gardener logo was proudly displayed. Master Gardeners were effective and efficient as they informed and educated the public regarding composting. Five different educational strategies were used:

1. Pamphlets which explained composting were handed out.
2. The Portable Horticulture Clinic answered any difficult questions regarding composting and answered all of the other horticulture questions.
3. A TV/VCR played a video which explained composting.
4. Melody Coffey educated children and adults with a demonstration of critters which do composting. She displayed in vitro worm composting.
5. Model compost bins were displayed.



Special Thanks to:

Melody Coffey

Sally Freeman

Wayne Hannel

Sue Horan

Bob Krush

Marianne Lemon

Nancy Nelson

Dean Stotz

Karen Stotz

The above activity completes scheduled Recycle and composting work for the year. Special thanks to all committee members.

4-H Fair Judging Committee Meeting

Submitted by Dean Stotz, Committee Chair

Event: Information meeting for assisting 4-H Leaders (Flowers and Vegetables) for the 2010 4-H Mississippi Valley Fair Judging contest.

Date: July 21, 2010

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: ISU Scott County Extension Office, Cyclone Room

The 4-H superintendent will outline how the Master Gardeners will assist 4-H leaders. All Master Gardeners are invited to attend (even if you did not sign up for the committee.) Attendees will be able to sign-up for duties at the July 21st meeting to be performed at the 4-H Fair event.

The Fair Judging Date is Sunday, August 1st at 12:00 p.m.

Your Extension Office Gardens

Submitted by Pat Christy, Chair Extension Office Garden Committee

The Extension Office Garden Committee members have been working diligently to bring beauty and education to the public who visit the office and gardens. All zones have undergone extensive planning and planting.

Zone 1: Is our “commercial business” design area and under Donna Lauritson’s leadership all of the vegetation is labeled.

Zone 2: Team Leader, Karen Crawford says, “The design for the annual garden on the southeast corner of the property this year is a quilt square pattern. We had two quilt square designs painted this year by local artist Pat Bereskin. The planting team chose the pattern they thought best for the space. We included a variety of annuals the same color to include in the center portion of the design to add texture. We chose annuals with similar heights. The annuals we utilized in the design include two varieties of salvia, snapdragons, zinnias, marigolds, and celosia. The Garden Groomers for Zone 2 are Harry Healey, Diane Williams, Michelle Dane, Barbara Madden, and Karen Crawford.”

Zone 3: Team Leader, Joan Gentzkow says. “The perennial garden was expanded last year and since it was already May, the plants that were left from the plant sale were used to fill the space. This year the committee spent time planning the garden. Many of the existing plants were removed, potted and put in the plant sale. The perennials selected were either unusual plants or new cultivars of familiar perennials. Three stepping stone paths have been added to enable people to walk into the garden and look at labels. Since most of the plants are new this year it will take another year or two to fully appreciate the size and form of each. If certain plants do not perform well, they can be replaced. The space is still not full due to budget constraints but there is always next year to evaluate and add plants.”

Zone 4: We are featuring three different herb/vegetable gardens in a raised bed format: Salsa Garden, Pesto Garden and Self Sustaining Herb Garden. In the Salsa Garden we have 2 kinds of tomatoes, several different varieties of peppers (shapes and heat variations), cilantro and onions. The Pesto Garden has a number of basil varieties all of which are suitable for use in pesto alone or in combination with each other, parsley, garlic. The Self Sustaining herb bed has either perennial or self seeding herbs including lemongrass, thymes, oregano, dill, rosemary, French tarragon, savory and so on.”

Ron Phillips’ Rain Garden in Zone 5: “Rain garden (native plants and non- native plants) located at the west side of the Extension building. Zone fivers have been busy. Several lilies have been planted. Geraniums have been moved. A number of willow-like volunteers have been eradicated. Most of the plants have been labeled. New plants will be added and stones will dress up the drains in the future—I hope. The zone has approximately 25 different types of native and non-native plants at this time.”

Lilies: day lilies and tiger lilies from the plant sale(hemerocallis)

Geranium: geranium maculatum.

Finally, the 6th zone on the long overgrown North side of the building under the leadership of Jeremy Bengé has undergone a huge metamorphosis to a hosta bed. All of the hostas, lilies, deutzia and other plants were donated from other Master Gardeners. This area was rain soaked and muddy, but despite the possible set back, was completely dug up and tilled. Many of the plants that were there were potted up for the Plant Sale by the committee members. In the fall, a selection of spring flowering bulbs will be planted ready to greet us when the Earth begins her spring awakening.

Compost and mulch has been applied to all of the gardens. Zone 4’s center of the raised beds is being completed with a decorative limestone so that it is more easily wheelchair and walker accessible.

We’ve been blessed with a surplus of rain this spring making the watering of the zones unnecessary and the growth of all of the plants phenomenal. We hope that you will all take the time to visit each zone and invite others to do the same.

Eagles Nest Homeless Veteran's Shelter Neighborhood Outreach Project
Submitted by Amy Hinke

This Neighborhood Outreach project was a true community project. Modern Woodmen of America provided the volunteers and the funds, then asked for assistance from the Scott County Master Gardeners on the design and planting. The project began when volunteers from the Shelter met with Master Gardeners to discuss their vision of their new space. Master Gardeners then met to prepare a design for the landscape. Once the design was created, the necessary plants were purchased or donated. On Saturday May 22nd, 6 ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardeners directed 30 members of Modern Woodmen of America's Camp 26 in beautifying the Eagles Nest Homeless Veteran's Shelter in Davenport. Thanks to the following Master Gardeners for their donations of time, expertise or plants:

Michelle Gheer	Amy Hinke	Dee Larson	Sandra Jurgens
Linda Getz	Joyce Lee	Rich Craddick	

State Master Gardener Coordinator to speak on *Frontiers in Gardening*

Join fellow gardeners at the ISU Scott County Extension Office on Monday, July 12th at 6–8 p.m. for a two hour program about *Frontiers in Gardening*.

Dr Jennifer Bousselot from Iowa State University Extension and the Department of Horticulture will present the session. Jennifer is the new Master Gardener Coordinator for the state of Iowa. She will discuss some current gardening trends such as green roofs, rain gardens, edible landscapes and local foods.

Cost of the program is \$5.00 and **no charge for Master Gardeners**. Call the ISU Scott County Extension office, 563-359-7577, to register.

The fundraising committee would like to thank all of you who donated plants for our plant sale this year. It was a great success thanks to all of you.



HORT CLINIC NEWS

Submitted by Bob Krush

- **CLIENTS:** During May 2010, the hort clinic assisted 183 clients. MGs handled 132 of the 183 clients (72%). For April and May combined, MGs assisted 272 out of 370 total clients (73.5%). If the ISU Scott County MGs were to have a “year of” calendar like the Chinese, it would be the year of the fungi. We have seen just about everything in the hort clinic this year.
- **STAFFING:** Between May 16th and June 15th, MGs staffed the hort clinic on 23 of 42 available sessions or 55%. The MG staffing rate in the hort clinic for the year so far is as follows:
 April 1-15 = 15/22 = 68%
 April 16-May 15 = 32/42 = 76%
 May 16-June 15 = 23/42 = 55%
 Overall = 70/106 = 66%
- **MG INTERNS:** Between May 16th and June 15th, the following MG interns completed their required hort clinic service hours. Way to go !!

Linda Getz Joani Nagle Abbie Sawyer

- **VETERAN MGs:** Many thanks to the following “veteran” active MGs who volunteered in the hort clinic between May 16th and June 15th:

JoAnn Garlough Kate Gordon Bob Krush
 David Sunleaf Karen Truesdell

So far this year, the veteran MG participation rate in the hort clinic is approximately 8%, i.e. 11 out of 131 veteran MGs have volunteered.

Upcoming Classes & Events:

CEU's	Course #	Topic	When	Where	Cost	Instructor	Registration Information
0	-	Gold Coast Blooms Garden Tour	July 10, 2010	Davenport, IA	TBA	NA	For details 563-326-2894 www.davenportgoldcoast.com
		Frontiers in Gardening	Monday, July 12, 2010 6:00—8:00 p.m.	ISU Scott County Extension 875 Tanglefoot Ln., Bett	No charge for Master Gardener otherwise \$5.00	Dr. Jennifer Bousselot	To register: ISU Scott County Extension office 563-359-7577
		4-H Mississippi Valley Fair Judging Contest informational meeting	July 21, 2010 7:00 p.m.	ISU Scott County Extension Office—Cyclone Room			
		Ice Cream Social	July 22, 2010 2:30—4:00 p.m.	ISU Scott County Extension lawn			Please RSVP by Friday, July 20th—359-7577
*	-	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 July 15th



The Gardener's Dirt

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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



On making mistakes in the garden:
That's how a gardener learns. It's not like making a mistake with the baby that the psychotherapist will trace back directly to you 20 years later. Plants don't point a finger. If they live, they don't carry grudges. If they die, unless you've killed an entire species or rain forest, you feel only momentary guilt, which is quickly replaced by a philosophical, smug feeling: Failure is enriching your compost pile.
–Anne Raver, page 243.

A modest garden contains, for those who know hoe to look and to wait, more instruction than a library.
–Henri Frederic Amiel, page 243.

A Gardener's Bouquet of Quotations, Editor Maria Polushkin Robbins. New Jersey: The Ecco Press. 1993. Pages 243.

The first rule of successful gardening is to work with, not against, the natural setting.
–Burpee Complete Gardener, page 33.

All gardens are a form of autobiography.
–Robert Dash, page 34.

There is a style of garden to suit every personality. –
Tom Wright, page 31.

No two gardens are exactly alike.
–Felicity Bryan, page 31.

As is the gardener, so is the garden.
–Old Saying, page 34.

The Gardener's Guide to Life. Editor Criswell Freeman. Nashville, TN:
Walnut Grove Press. 1997. Pages 31, 33, 34.