



# THE GARDENER'S DIRT

*The Latest Scoop from the Scott County Master Gardeners*

September 2011

## Master Gardeners' Fall Picnic + Plant/Bulb/Seed Exchange

All Master Gardeners and families are invited to the Fall Picnic to be held on Sunday, September 18th at Sally and Franc Freeman's, 20599 Utica Ridge Road, Davenport.

We will begin gathering at 5:00 p.m. and plan to eat around 5:30 p.m.

The Social Committee will furnish fried chicken, water and lemonade plus plates and eating utensils.

Everyone is asked to bring a salad, vegetable or dessert to share. Also each person will need to bring a chair.



Please RSVP by Thursday, Sept. 15th to the Extension Office 359-7577, Sally Freeman 355-8534 or Vicki Liebbe [vpickle@netins.net](mailto:vpickle@netins.net).

### **Plant/bulb/seed Exchange**

Master Gardeners attending the picnic are encouraged to bring perennial plants, bulbs or seeds for exchange. You will receive a ticket for each item brought and the committee has an "exchange plan." There is no limit to the number of items you can bring but please include your name and general information about the item.

### **2011 4-H Fair Judging**

*Submitted by Heidi Harris Thomas, 4-H Fair Judging Chairman*

The 4-H Fair Judging Committee spent the afternoon of July 31<sup>st</sup> at Keppy Hall working collaboratively with 4-Hers making sure the children had an educational experience and smooth transitions between stations. Children entered the prep area where MGs made sure the requirements necessary for judging were met. Next, MGs made sure paperwork was completed. Carriers transferred exhibits to the judging tables then to their appropriate tables and placed awarded ribbons on each exhibit. Six comment writers worked side-by-side with the judges writing feedback on each 4-Hers exhibit. Judging sheet attendants entered all the exhibitors and their awards on a spreadsheet, an arduous but important job. The YUM attendant collected 4-Hers prepared items for sample tasting and voting.

It was very rewarding interacting with young people dedicated to the entire entry process from seed planting, to caretaking, displaying, and following required procedures for entering their vegetables and flowers. Thank you to all the resourceful Master Gardeners who lent a hand to these hard-working young folks. Master Gardener volunteers included:

Alexa Coobs	Eve Corbin	Chuck Doss	Cecil Fuhlman	Lisa Fuhlman
Deb Janke	Linda Kuffer	Beth Lotspeich	Barb Madden	Jan Martin
Lisa Schluensen	Barb Spies	Cindy Stolley	Dean Stotz	Heidi Harris Thomas

#### **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.*

# What are these women doing?

*Submitted by Joleen Bakken*



Several Master Gardeners participated in a fun activity on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. Cindy Stolley shared her talent in making “Sand Cast Birdbaths”. We needed to wear masks while stirring up the concrete cement and applied it to the back side of rhubarb leaves. After the concrete dried, we gathered again on Friday morning for the great unveiling. The leaves are all “one of a kind” and turned out great. Those in attendance were: Cindy Stolley, Carol Wagner, Tana Odean, Nancy Nelson, Carolyn Beck, Sue Horan, Kim Scully, Lona Moore, Sandra Jurgens, Joan Haberkamp, Kathy Wolfe, Kathy Hoeper & Joleen Bakken.





## WHAT'S HOT IN SCOTT!!

The latest "hot calls" and what to look for from ISU Scott County Extension.

### **Asian Longhorned Beetle Update. Beetles Found in Ohio**

This article was published originally on 8/10/2011 By Laura Jesse, Plant & Insect Diagnostic Clinic ISU

Earlier this summer the Asian longhorned beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis*, was found in Bethel, Ohio (30 miles southeast of Cincinnati). The infestation was identified after a property owner noticed unusual damage to several maples. A survey is underway to determine the extent of the population. Over 600 infested trees have already been found. Ohio is the fifth state to detect this recent exotic pest.

This detection emphasizes the importance of public awareness of exotic pests such as Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). The general public has been critical in detecting many of the infestations. See history of ALB, below.

ALB is a native of China and was first detected in the U.S. in New York in 1996. It probably arrived after traveling to the United States inside solid wood packing material from China. The beetles are borers that attack many species of trees but prefer maples, birches, willow, horsechestnut, buckeye and elm. ALB kills trees when larvae tunnel into large branches and the trunk. ALB is a serious pest of hardwood trees and to date, has caused the destruction of more than 72,000 hardwood trees in the U.S.

So far, the ALB has NOT been found in Iowa, but it is important to be aware of this insect and watch for it. Infestations are found by aware people who notice the large beetles or damage to trees. In Iowa you can help by reporting sightings of an unusual beetle and any signs of infestation to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (515-725-1471), the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (515-281-4915), or ISU Extension (515-294-0581).

Early detection of infestations and rapid treatment response are crucial to successful eradication of the beetle. See the USDA Forest Service Pest Alert for more information, including photos and information on how to submit samples for identification.

### **Description of ALB**

Adult ALB are very large, distinctive-looking insects with the body alone measuring 3/4- to 1-1/4 inches and then the antennae are up to 2.5 times the body length with distinctive black and white bands on each segment. Adult beetles have a jet black body with mottled white spots on the back. See photo below.

### **Life cycle**

ALB has one generation per year. Egg-laying niches are chewed into the bark by the female beetle, and a single egg is deposited in each niche. Each female is capable of laying up to 160 eggs. Eggs hatch in 10-15 days, and the larvae tunnel under the bark into the wood where they feed, grow, pupate and eventually transform to the adult stage. Adults emerge from the trees by boring a 3/8 inch, round exit hole in the tree. Adults usually stay on the trees from which they emerged or may disperse short distances to a new host to feed and reproduce. Tunneling by larvae inside the tree girdles tree trunks and branches. Repeated ALB attacks lead to dieback of the tree crown and, eventually, death of the tree.

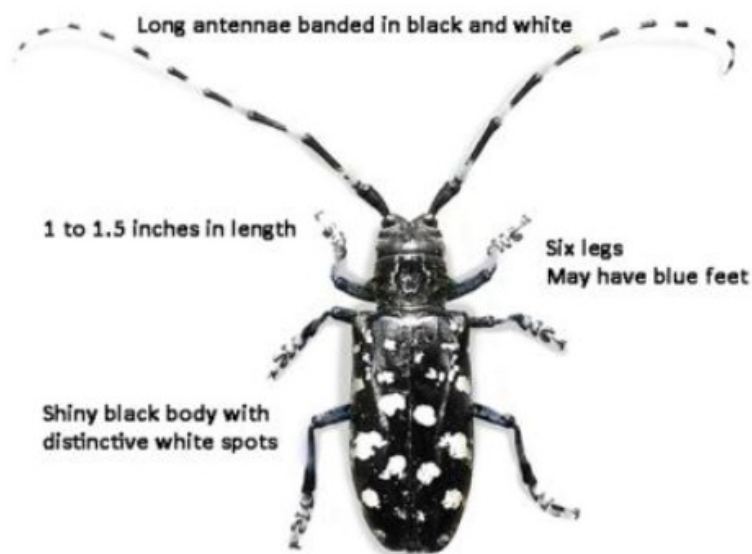
### **Brief History of Detections**

ALB was first detected in New York City in 1996 and that infestation is still active in Long Island, Queens, Manhattan, Staten and Prall's Islands. ALB was detected in Chicago in 1998 and two cities in New Jersey in 2002 and 2004. The New Jersey and Chicago infestations are likely eradicated as no beetles have been detected since 2006 and 2008, respectively. In New Jersey 729 infested trees were destroyed and 1551 infested trees were destroyed in Chicago. In 2008 a large infestation was found in Worcester, Massachusetts and in 2010 an infestation was found in Boston. Finally the Ohio infestation was found in 2011.

### **Management**

Currently, the only effective means to eliminate ALB is to remove infested trees and destroy them by chipping or burning. To prevent further spread of the insect, quarantines are established to avoid transporting infested trees and branches from the area. Please do your part; don't transport firewood!

*Continued on page 4,*



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Asian longhorned beetle has distinctive characteristics as described.



Asian longhorned beetle. Photo by Donald Duerr, USDA Forest Service, via Bugwood.org

## Fall 2011 ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardener Training

Facilitators	Day	Date	Time	Place	Topic	Instructor
NA	Thurs.	Sept. 08	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Orientation / Intro.	MG advisory brd
Pat Christy Dianne Williams Ruth Wilweding	Tues.	Sept. 13	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Soils/Botany (Adobe Connect)	Lee Burras Dr Jennifer Boussetot
Beth Lotspeich Cindy Stolley Dean Stotz	Thurs.	Sept. 15	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Favorite Tools / Journals	Peggy Dykes
Pat Guzis Wayne Hannel Nancy Rudnick	Tues.	Sept. 20	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Turfgrass Management (Adobe Connect)	Dr Dave Minner
Melody Coffey Sally Freeman John Hale	Thurs	Sept. 22	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Houseplants	Duane Gissel
Tom Dywiak Debbie Joynt Jan Martin	Tues.	Sept. 27	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Plant Pathology & Entomology (Adobe Connect)	Dr Mark Gleason Dr Donald Lewis
Sue Clark Michelle Gheer Diane Tiedje	Thurs.	Sept. 29	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Roses	Tom Dywiak
Dorothy Kroeger Joyce Lee Abbie Sawyer	Tues.	Oct. 04	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Woody Landscape Plants (Adobe Connect)	Dr Jeff Iles
Linda Kuffer Lona Moore Mick Robertson	Thurs.	Oct. 06	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Herbaceous Ornamentals	Melanie Hayes
Nancy Gruber Marla Tedesco Doug Truesdell	Tues.	Oct. 11	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Weed Management, IPM, Pesticides	Dr Kristine Schaefer Dr Laura Jesse Dr Donald Lewis
Kathy Bowman Amy Hinke Marie Sterbenz	Thurs.	Oct. 13	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Vegetables	Dr Patrick O'Malley
NA	Sat	Oct. 15	9:00am - 4:00 pm	On Campus Iowa State Univ. Ames, Ia	Entomology lab Plant Pathology lab Soil lab Botany/Plant Prop. Lab	ISU Staff
Deb Janke Sally Stewart Kelly Taylor	Tues.	Oct. 18	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Animal Ecology / Wildlife Management (Adobe Connect)	Dr Rebecca Christofel
Anita McDowell Arnold Shileny Karen Truesdell	Thurs.	Oct. 20	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Native Plants	Dan Mays
Lois Fradel Emily Navarre Ruth Ottesen	Tues	Oct. 25	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Fruit Culture (Adobe Connect)	Dr Paul Domoto
NA	Thurs	Oct. 27	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Your role as a Master Gardener & Project Sign up	MG advisory board
Emily Collingwood Deb Pinczer Kim Scully	Tues	Nov. 1	6:30-9:30 pm	Scott County Extension Office	Home Landscape Design (Adobe Connect)	Dr Ann Marie VanDerZanden

All Sessions : ISU Scott Co. Ext. 875 Tanglefoot Lane Bettendorf (Sat. Session: Oct 15 On Campus-ISU Ames - Oct 29 alt. date

# The Gardener's Dirt

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[www.extension.iastate.edu/scott](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/scott)

## Thoughts From The Belly

By: Dan Mays—Ironbelly1@aol.com

It has been a while since I have written an installment of this column. I recently crossed the threshold of six decades of living. Much of the gardening wisdom I have garnered during this time has either been through attendance at the School of Hard Knocks or simply by trowel and error. I will have to admit to reading my fair share, but there is certainly a lot of ink wasted on “information” that belongs on the compost heap. I am a big believer in actually testing the information that I read in my own garden. Some of it is good and much of it is only possible if you are skilled at Photoshop on a computer.

Although I don't – but probably should – keep a garden journal, I do take mental notes of the repetition of both the positive and negative things in my own and other's gardens. Simple things that always seem to work, I call “no-brainers.” One of those no-brainers occurred to me the other day as I was futzing around the garden lost in contemplation. Although it started by accident a number of years ago, I like to plant leaf lettuce in various bare spots around my garden. Often I will simply plant some of it in a large pot where I think it needs some color and rotate the pot out when the lettuce begins to bolt. People are always fascinated when they see plain old leaf lettuce planted outside of the vegetable garden and are sure to take note. I noticed something that I was also subconsciously doing: throwing in a few Johnny-Jump-Up (*Viola tricolor*) seeds with the lettuce seed. Actually, the pots that I now keep reusing for leaf lettuce already have an ample supply of self-sown Johnny-Jump-Up seeds. What a delightful combination! In addition, the happy little blooms are edible and make a charming garnish on the salads that my lovely wife, Cyndia, makes. It is simply amazing what that little of color adds to the dining experience of dinner guests. The curious little blooms and the revelation that they are also edible sets a joyous tone for the rest of the dining experience. Never forget that food is first enjoyed through the eye; before it ever hits the tongue.

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