



THE GARDENER'S DIRT

The Latest Scoop from the Scott County Master Gardeners

January 2012

Annual Meeting January 18th Request

Please be sure to RSVP to the ISU Scott Extension Office, 359-7577 by January 13th. 2011 has been a challenging year for many in our community so rather than soliciting donations from companies, the Master Gardener Advisory Board is asking each of you to bring a canned good or nonperishable item to the annual meeting. These donations will go to the Friendly House food pantry.

Holiday Party

Submitted by Sally Freeman

On Monday, December 5th at 3:30 p.m. many of the Social Committee members met at the ISU Scott County Extension Office and turned the south west corner of the building into a beautiful Holiday Party Room. Creativity was at its best as everyone worked fast and furiously to transform the area into a festive holiday atmosphere. I know many of you were surprised by our transformation of the area.



In order to keep everyone working hard and tummies full culinary student, Sally Freeman served chili. Joyce Lee served cornbread and honey that her beekeeper brother had made.

A special THANK YOU to the following social committee members who worked so hard to make our party a success.

Joleen Bakken

Lois Fradel

Deb Janke

Jan Martin

Doug Truesdell

Carolyn Beck

Pat Guzis

Sandra Jurgens

Nancy Rudnick

Carol Wagner

Melody Coffey

Naomi Haertjens

Dorothy Kroeger

Ed Sharkness

Ruth Wilwerding

Ann DeSalvo

Sue Horan

Joyce Lee

Karen Truesdell

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.

Scott County Master Gardeners Bus Trip



PRINCETON, ILLINOIS

Check out their website
www.hornbakergardens.com

June 2, 2012

**Gather at Scott County Extension Office
875 Tanglefoot Lane, Bettendorf
at 8:30 - 8:45 am
Bus Will Leave Promptly at 9:00 am**

- Earn One CEU during the bus ride – a class will be given by Scott County Master Gardener, Dan Mays.
- Snacks provided during bus ride to Princeton.
- Upon arrival at Hornbaker Gardens a class will be presented by their staff on *Garden Focal Points*. You will earn another CEU for this class.
- Picnic lunch to be served after the class.
- About 2 hours are set aside to tour gardens & pick out your purchases.
- Bus loads promptly at 3:00 pm for the ride back to the Quad Cities.

COST \$29 per person*

Reservations will be open to Master Gardeners and their friends and family who register with a Scott County MG until Feb. 15.

If the bus is not full at that time we will open it to other Master Gardeners and garden clubs from the QC area to fill the bus.

We must have 50 people to fill the bus. If we do not get the bus full we will need to cancel the trip!! (If this happens your money will be refunded.) Once your reservation has been received at the Extension Office there will be no refunds (unless trip is cancelled).

*(Enjoy the convenience and good value. It is a 160 mile roundtrip to Hornbaker Gardens. If you drove yourself it would cost \$20-\$24 for gas. AND don't forget about the two CEU's. What a deal!!!!)



Scott County Master Gardeners Bus Trip



PRINCETON, ILLINOIS

Check out their website
www.hornbakergardens.com

Saturday, June 2, 2012

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Guest of Scott County Master Gardener _____

Total dollar amount enclosed _____

- Money (checks only please) must be included with registration. \$29.00 per person
- Registration must be turned in no later than March 15, 2012
- Once your reservation is received - no refunds or cancellations.
- Disclaimer – should we be unable to fill the bus (50 people) registration fee will be returned and trip will be canceled.
- Please make check out to Scott County Extension and note in memo line – MG Bus Trip.
- Reservation forms along with check can be mailed to or dropped off at the Scott County Extension Office. Payment must accompany the reservation form.



**Scott County Extension Office
875 Tanglefoot Lane Suite B
Bettendorf IA 52722**

Board Briefs

Submitted by Bob Cohee

The Scott County Master Gardener's Advisory Board met on December 1st at the Extension Office with nine members present.

Items discussed included:

- The 2012 budget was discussed and approved for submittal.
- The Annual Meeting agenda was discussed and finalized. It will be held on January 18th and all MG's are asked to bring donations for the food pantry.
- The proposed Bus Trip to Hornbaker Gardens in Princeton, IL was discussed and it was decided to proceed with plans.
- Chuck Doss proposed that a Turf Grass Committee be formed to improve the Extension Office lawn. He will make a proposal to Becky for approval and funding.
- If anyone is interested in running for a Board position, contact Duane.



The next Board meeting will be January 5, 2012.



Frosty Fruit Cooler

Submitted by Sally Freeman

4 cups Apricot Nectar, chilled
2 cups Orange Juice, chilled
1 pint Pineapple Sherbet

2 cups Pineapple Juice, chilled
1 qt (4 cups) carbonated lemon-lime beverage, chilled
1 pint Rainbow Sherbet

In a 4 quart non-metal container, combine apricot nectar, pineapple juice, and orange juice. Chill. Just before serving pour in lemon-lime beverage. Float scoops of sherbet on top. Serve immediately. 24 servings.

Note: Buy the apricot nectar in the health food department at HyVee 53rd Street. Only place I have found it.

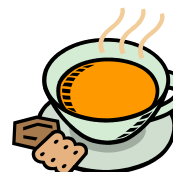
Totally Awesome Pumpkin Soup

Submitted by Linda Kuffer

If you still have some pumpkins from your garden here is a recipe you will definitely want to try! (And if not then used canned pumpkin)

4 Bacon Strips, chopped
6 Cups Chicken Broth
1/2 Teaspoon Salt
1/4 Teaspoon Ground Nutmeg
6 oz Smoked Gouda Cheese, shredded

1 Medium Onion, chopped
4 Cups Pureed Pumpkin
1/8 Teaspoon Pepper (or to taste)
1 Cup Heavy Cream



In a Dutch oven, cook chopped bacon until crisp. Drain on paper towels. Reserve one tablespoon of bacon drippings. Sauté onion in the one tablespoon of bacon drippings until tender. Stir in the broth, pumpkin, salt, pepper and nutmeg. Bring to a boil and simmer uncovered for 10 minutes. Cook slightly. In a blender, CAREFULLY process soup in batches until smooth. Return all soup to the pan. Stir in the cream and heat thru. Add the shredded cheese and stir until melted. Sprinkle each serving with the bacon crumbles and extra shredded cheese, if you desire.

ENJOY!!

Thoughts From The Belly

By: Dan Mays—Ironbelly1@aol.com

I am very proud to be part of an organization such as the Scott County Extension Master Gardeners. Yes, we are the oldest MG group in the state, but I am excited by the way we keep revitalizing our organization. We value our traditions such as meeting and greeting our new crop of graduating Master Gardener Interns at our annual meeting. This will again take place on Wednesday, January 18th. However, thanks to a forward-looking board, a vast improvement to the annual meeting will also be unveiled. The MG board of directors thoughtfully analyzed the proceedings of past meetings and decided that the large block of time spent announcing the accomplishments of individuals and committees (while well-deserved) could be better used. Instead, they have chosen to dedicate this meeting timeframe to further educate ourselves.

Master Gardeners seem to have an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. One topic that consistently appears at the top of the educational “wish list” in MG surveys is butterfly gardening. Let me quickly add that, over the years, I have attended far too many “fluffy talks” about butterfly gardening. The audience interest was obviously there, but sadly, the presentations lacked satisfying substance. Presentations showing sulfur butterflies gathered around a mud puddle, monarchs nectaring on milkweed blooms, and endlessly repeating the words “fun” and “pretty” is fine for a third grade class; but as an adult, I want more.

Fortunately, at the annual meeting on January 18th, the board is giving us more—much more. Literally, they are bringing in the guy who wrote the book on butterflies (or at least one of the three co-authors of [The Butterflies of Iowa](#)). I am tickled as can be that Dennis Schlicht will be giving us his presentation on [The Butterflies of Iowa](#).

I have known Dennis as a mutual acquaintance for a few years now. I have routinely been running into Dennis at various native plant and insect gatherings around the bi-state region. He circulates and he “percolates”. One thing that has always drawn me to Dennis is the fascinating perspective, personal insight, and depth of knowledge that he imparts to any given topic of discussion. I always leave his company with a contemplating smile on my face and having learned something fascinating.

I have not been fortunate enough, yet, to hear a formal presentation by Mr. Schlicht. However, if his presentation is anything close to matching his conversations, this event is sure to capture a spell-bound audience. I already own his book and it brings a refreshing amount of background detail and insight into the butterflies of Iowa that I have not found in other books on the subject matter. Most importantly, the book contains an enormous depth of information written in enjoyable, understandable language. Combining Dennis Schlicht’s conversational style with photos and information from his book should make for an exciting evening of learning.

Coincidentally, Mr. Schlicht has graciously offered to discount the price of his book to \$25 for this speaking engagement. I bought a copy (and paid more for it) when the book first came out. My copy is already showing signs of wear because I refer to it often. Dennis has also graciously agreed to sign your copy. Bring a little extra cash and give yourself a belated Christmas gift.

I encourage all to join me in welcoming our new MG interns and Dennis Schlicht to the annual meeting.

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



The Gardener's Dirt

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

Upcoming Classes & Events:

CEU's	Course #	Topic	When	Where	Cost	Instructor	Registration Information
*	-	Bald Eagle Days	January 6-8, 2012	QCCA Expo Center 2621 4th Avenue Rock Island, IL	\$5.00	-	NA
2	-	Guided Winter Hikes at Nahant Marsh	January 18, 2012 8:30-10:30 a.m.	Nahant Marsh 4220 Wapello Avenue, Dav	\$5.00 non-members Free for members	Nahant staff	563-323-5196 or email nahantmarsh@eicc.edu
		MG Annual Meeting	January 18, 2011 6:30 p.m.	ISU Scott County Extension 875 Tanglefoot Ln., Bett			
2	-	Guided Winter Hikes at Nahant Marsh	February 8, 2012 8:30-10:30 a.m.	Nahant Marsh 4220 Wapello Avenue, Dav	\$5.00 non-members Free for members	Nahant staff	563-323-5196 or email nahantmarsh@eicc.edu
*	-	Winter Gardening Fair	February 18, 2012	Kirkwood Community College Cedar Rapids, IA	TBA	Various	TBA
*	-	Henry County Master Gardeners Spring Symposium	March 3, 2012	Mount Pleasant, IA	TBA	Various	TBA
*		QCCA Flower & Garden Show	March 23-25, 2012	QCCA Expo Center 2621 4th Ave Rock Island, IL	\$7.00	-	NA
		MG Hornbaker Garden Bus Trip	June 2, 2012 8:30 a.m.	Meet at ISU Scott County Extension 875 Tanglefoot Ln., Bett	\$29.00		Registration form to ISU Scott County Extension no later than 2/15/2012
*	-	2012 Master Gardeners Upper Midwest Conference	July 19-20, 2012	Minnesota Landscape Arboretum	TBA	Various	TBA

* To be determined by sessions attended. Submit proof of sessions attended to the ISU Scott County Extension Horticulturist.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964."