



THE GARDENER'S DIRT

The Latest Scoop from the Scott County Master Gardeners

February 2012

Master Gardener Interest Survey Results

Submitted by Ray Wolf, Chair

Sixty Master Gardeners turned in surveys at the Annual Meeting sharing their interest in topics for which they would like to learn more. Here are the top 10 responses:

1. Hummingbird/bird Gardens
2. Native Plants
3. Hostas
4. Container Gardens
5. Ornamental Grasses
6. Landscaping
7. Shade Gardens
8. Perennials
9. Butterfly Gardens
10. Conifers, Environmentally Friendly Gardens (tie)

In addition, 15 Master Gardeners expressed interest in sharing their garden wisdom by speaking or teaching a class. Speaker requests for 2012 are already coming in.

The Adult Education Committee will soon meet to work out the details for this spring's class offerings, and your input via the survey will help guide our planning. Look for classes during the March-April-May time frame. Also, we will provide additional educational information from time to time via articles in the Dirt.

There are a number of other opportunities in the area where you can expand your gardening knowledge base. Don't hesitate to take advantage of educational programs such as the Rock Island County Nursery School: Lessons in Gardening, Clinton – Horticulture in the Heartland, and Rock Island County Master Gardener Spring Series. In past years, programs have also been offered in Muscatine, Linn and Jackson counties. Attendance at events like these will expose you to a broad range of high quality speakers and fascinating and useful material. A listing of area events is available in the Dirt. Finally, don't forget you can always attend and earn CEUs at the classes for new MG interns held each fall.

Finally, I would like to thank the Master Gardeners in 2011 who provided classes and spoke to local groups. These efforts help us meet our mission of educating area residents about gardening.

The 2012 ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardener Advisory Board Members:

Pat Christy

Bob Cohee

Michele Dane

Wayne Hannel

Linda Kuffer

Beth Lotspeich

Chris Mostaert

Ray Wolf

Al Reagan (New Class Rep)

Congratulations and thank you for agreeing to serve.

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.

Thoughts From The Belly

By: Dan Mays – Ironbelly1@aol.com

On Saturday, the 28th of January my lovely wife Cyndia and I traveled to Ankeny, Iowa, to attend the annual meeting of the Iowa Prairie Network. We felt blessed and excited that one of our new MG interns, Joan Broughton, decided to accept my recent offer to ride-share to this event. As expected, a treasure trove of native plant information was available if you simply walked in the door. Probably about 150 people were in attendance and looking about was like examining a Who's Who of prairie experts. Perhaps none was more recognizable and knowledgeable than the current "Dean of the Prairie," [Dr. Daryl Smith](#), the director of the [Tall Grass Prairie Center](#) from the University of Northern Iowa. However, (and perhaps more importantly) the event was also packed with "them that's doing."

The presentations are always informative and often cutting-edge; preliminarily sharing results of prairie research soon to be published. Another stellar aspect of this event is the amount of free, high quality hand-outs, posters, books and booklets being freely disseminated. In particular, I was impressed with the materials being provided by the Iowa Department of Transportation and the [Iowa Department of Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management](#). They handed out numerous native plant identification booklets; including some that help you identify seedling plants—perhaps the most difficult to identify. I also picked up a great interactive CD that now helps me identify 1,200 plants (some non-native) that I am likely to encounter across North America. This CD was being provided free of charge to participants.

The most unusual session that I attended for the day was a writing class where we were encouraged to be more sensorially descriptive when writing about native plants. Although scientific descriptions are at times a necessity, they can make for relentlessly boring reading. Adding subjective details drawn mostly from a subconscious level was suggested to bring a little more life into our writing. As an exercise, we were asked to write a short, detailed description of something from our past that dealt with this season of the year. It did not need to be plant related, but it did need to be sensory.

I have to admit that I was a bit skeptical about attending this session, but my enthusiasm was quickly emboldened when I spotted Deb Lewis, the curator of the [Ada Hayden Herbarium](#) (Iowa State University) seated in the class. During this session, I was fortunate enough to be seated next to [Linda Scarth](#), one of the photographic authors of [Deep Nature](#) (a book that I have previously recommended in this column). In my opinion, the best, most uniquely descriptive phrase of the day came from Linda: "... the sound of sheep nibbling grain from a trough in a barn on a winter's night." Such imagery!

While this type of class may seem of dubious value to many native plant enthusiasts, I was excited and inspired with the possibilities for better communication – communication at a visceral level. And ultimately, as Master Gardeners, our distillate goal is simply communication. Is it not?

I have to admit that I also attended this annual meeting with ulterior motives. Of course, I went primarily to expand my pallet of knowledge. I also went to groom my networking. However, my secret ambition was to ferret out potential speakers for our group. I have a few in mind of the quality recently displayed by Dennis Schlicht when he spoke to our group about butterfly gardening.

I will be continuing my quest to discover even more regional speakers on March 24th at the upcoming "[Day of Insects](#)" in Ames. It is scheduled to be a full day with over fifteen speakers giving short, fifteen-minute snippets of information on a wide variety of insect-related topics. The event is always both exceptionally lively and stimulating. My lovely wife, Cyndia, and I will be driving up to Ames the night before to join the [Reiman Gardens](#) staff for an informal spaghetti social on the Friday evening before the Fourth Annual Day of Insects. I hope to get in some major "schmoozing" and make a few connections—as well as keeping the spaghetti sauce off of my shirt!

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



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**

Upcoming Classes & Events:

CEU's	Course #	Topic	When	Where	Cost	Instructor	Registration Information
2	-	Guided winter hikes at Nahant Marsh	February 8, 2012 8:30-10:30am	Nahant Marsh 4220 Wapello Avenue Davenport	\$5.00 non-members Free for members.	Nahant staff	563-323-5196 or Email nahantmarsh@eicc.edu
2	-	Daylilies -- All the Pretty Faces	Feb 12, 2012 2:00 - 4:00pm	Iowa City Public Library Room A	NC	Zora Ronan	NA
*	-	Winter Gardening Fair	February 18, 2012 8:30am - 3:30pm	Kirkwood Community College Cedar Rapids, IA	\$49.00	Various	www.extension.iastate.edu/linn
*	-	56 th Annual Shade Tree Short Course A living Tribute & Lasting Legacy	February 22-23, 2012	Scheman Building ISU Ames, IA	See registration form	various	www.cpm.iastate.edu/shadetree
*	-	Nursery School: Lessons in Gardening	February 25, 2012 8:00am - 4:00pm	I Wireless Center Moline, IL	\$45.00	various	Rock Island County Extension 309-756-9978
6	-	Buchanan County MG's Public Gardening Symposium	February 25, 2012 9:00am - 3:30pm	First Presbyterian Church, 116 6th Ave. N.W., Independence, IA	\$25.00 by 2/10 \$30.00 after 2/10	various	Buchanan County Extension 319-334-7161
1.5	XHGGA-2068- SGR01	Vermicomposting at Home	March 1, 2012 6:30 - 8:00pm	Vander Veer	\$35.00	Wolf	www.eicc.edu or 563-441-4100
*	-	Horticulture in the Heartland	March 3, 2012 7:30am - 2:00pm	Clinton Community College 1000 Lincoln Blvd Clinton, IA	\$30.00 Due 2/24/2012	various	For more info call 563-242-4771
*	-	Henry County Master Gardeners Spring Symposium	March 3, 2012	Mount Pleasant, IA	TBA	Various	TBA
2	-	One Acre at a Time	March 4, 2012 2:00 - 4:00pm	Iowa City Public Library Room A	NC	Dick Baker	NA
2.5	XHGGA-2087- SGR01	Cut Flowers	March 8, 2012 6:30 - 9:00pm	West Davenport Ctr. 2900 Fairmont Davenport, IA	\$9.00	Lafrenz	www.eicc.edu or 563-441-4100
*	-	Jackson County Master Gardener's Adventures in Gardening	March 10, 2012 9:00am -	Maquoketa Middle School	\$15 before March 1st. \$20 at the door	Various	Jackson County Extension Office at 563-652-4923 and paying
*	-	Art of Gardening	March 17, 2012 8:00am - 4:00pm	Muscatine Comm College 152 Colorado St Muscatine, IA	\$40.00	various	563-288-6161 or 1-800-351-4669 by 3/2/12
2	-	Insects & Pest Management	March 19, 2012 7:00 - 9:00pm	Rock Island County Extension 321 W 2 nd Ave Milan, IL	NC	Ray Wolf	Rock Island County Extension 321 W 2 nd Ave Milan, IL 309-756-9978
*	-	QCCA Flower & Garden Show	March 23-25, 2012	QCCA Expo Center 2621 4th Avenue Rock Island, IL	\$7.00	-	NA
*	-	Day of Insects	March 24, 2012 8:00am - 4:00pm	Reiman Gardens 1407 University Blvd Ames, IA	\$20.00 full day	Various	Reiman Gardens 515-294-2710 Or online www.reimangardens.iastate.edu
2	-	Water Gardens & More	March 26, 2012 7:00 - 9:00pm	Rock Island County Extension 321 W 2 nd Ave Milan, IL	NC	Jackie Allsup	Rock Island County Extension 309-756-9978
2	-	From Plant to Plate: Growing & Using Herbs	April 1, 2012 2:00 - 4:00pm	Iowa City Public Library Room A	NC	Susan Applegut-Hurst	NA
2	-	Don't Blame the Plant	April 2, 2012 7:00 - 9:00pm	Rock Island County Extension 321 W 2 nd Ave Milan, IL	NC	Martha Smith	Rock Island County Extension 309-756-9978
2	-	Common Tree Mistakes & Q & A	April 9, 2012 7:00 - 9:00pm	Rock Island County Extension 321 W 2 nd Ave Milan, IL	NC	Brian Jay	Rock Island County Extension 309-756-9978
2	-	Grow It, Cook It, Bake It!	April 16, 2012 7:00 - 9:00pm	Rock Island County Extension 321 W 2 nd Ave Milan, IL	NC	Cathy Lafrenz	Rock Island County Extension 309-756-9978
2	-	What's New in the Greenhouse?	April 23, 2012 7:00 - 9:00pm	Rock Island County Extension 321 W 2 nd Ave Milan, IL	NC	Gwen Coobs	Rock Island County Extension 309-756-9978
*	-	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.							

Items to be picked up

The following Master Gardeners and Interns have items to be picked up at the Extension office. (All items are in the Master Gardener office.)

Francesca Arulraja
Melody Coffey
Mari Fournier
Nancy Nelson
Sally Stewart

Joleen Bakken
Bob Cohee
Sue Laimans
Mick Robertson
Ruth VanTol

Vera Blevins
Emily Collingwood
Linda Lueders
Lisa Schluensen
Dotty Weber

Kathy Bowman
Anne DeSalvo
Kevin Marker
Arnie Shileny

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

Chocolate Zucchini Cupcakes

Submitted by Linda Kuffer

What to do with all the zucchini you grated and put in the freezer last summer? Here is a recipe for a yummy treat!

Chocolate Zucchini Cupcakes

2 Cups Shredded Zucchini
2 Cups Granulated Sugar
2 Teaspoons Vanilla
2/3 Cup Unsweetened Baking Cocoa
Pinch of Salt
3/4 Cup Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips

3 Eggs
3/4 Cup Vegetable Oil
2 Cups Flour
1 Teaspoon Baking Soda
1/2 Teaspoon Baking Powder

In large bowl stir together zucchini, eggs, sugar, oil and vanilla. Add dry ingredients and chocolate chips. Stir until combined. Spoon into cupcake pan in which the cups have been lined with paper baking cups. Fill about half full - should fill 24 baking cups. Bake at 325 degrees for about 25 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool in pan for 5 minutes. Remove from pan and finish cooling on wire rack. Frost with Peanut Butter Icing if desired.

Peanut Butter Icing

Beat together with electric mixer 1/2 cup peanut butter, 1/3 cup softened butter, 1 tablespoon milk, and 1/2 teaspoon vanilla. Gradually add 1 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar, beating well till combined. If needed, you can beat in 1-2 teaspoons milk to make of spreading consistency.

Enjoy!!

"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."