

THE GARDENER'S DIRT

The Latest Scoop from the Scott County Master Gardeners

February 2009

2009 CHICAGO FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois

Bring all your friends and enjoy a day of spring at the annual Chicago Flower & Garden Show.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH CHARTERED BUS TRIP

Theme Gardens, Garden Marketplace, Gardening Seminars, Teaching Garden, Floral Tablescapes,
Photography Garden & Hands-On Workshops.
Home Lifestyle Expo, DIY & Home Improvement vendors.

Board the Bus at the ISU Scott County Extension Office

875 Tanglefoot Lane, Bettendorf

At 6:00 a.m.

Bus Leaves promptly at 6:30 a.m.

\$45.00 per person

Includes your ticket to both the Flower & Garden Show
& The Home Lifestyle Expo

Coffee, Juice, Water & Cinnamon Rolls on the way.

Lunch & Dinner are on your own.

Bus will not be making any stops.

Leaving the Show at 5:00 p.m.

Arrive home about 8:00 p.m.

Reservations Must Be Made:

By February 16th



YOUR CHECK IS YOUR RESERVATION

Mail to:

ISU Scott County Extension Office

875 Tanglefoot Lane

Bettendorf, IA 52722

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.

Annual Meeting Recap

The Annual Meeting was held on Monday, January 12th in the Cyclone Room. 74 MGs braved the cold temps and threat of more snow to attend. Dinner was catered by “A Guy and a Grill.” The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Four board members were elected to 2 year terms and one board member was elected to a one year term to fill an opening left by June Breeding who had moved. The board members who were reelected are Dick Sayles and Bobbi Goodin. Vito Fiore and Kathy Hoepfer were elected to their first 2 year terms and JoAnn Garlough was the winner of the one year term.

Karen Crawford gave a short presentation on the progress and current status of the Extension Garden. Although no grants were secured, the committee will continue to work on the garden with plans for a walkway and irrigation system to be installed in 2009. Kathy Hoepfer outlined her plans for the Fundraising committee for 2009. Ray Wolf discussed the Adult Ed’s committee accomplishments for 2008 and plans for 2009.

Three Master Gardeners with 20 years of service were honored with framed pictures of themselves in their gardens. Their pictures were hung on the *Master Gardener Perennials* wall in the Cyclone Room. The 3 new “Perennials” are all from the Class of 1988 Hal Davis, Wayne Hannel, and Sheila Lang. The picture montages were taken by MG Jennifer Boerema. Ruth Ottesen and Doug McDonald both had their names added to the plaque for 1000 hours of service.

As a gesture of community involvement, MGs brought grocery items and made cash donations for 3 local food pantries. The pantries who benefited from this event were:

*Central Community Circle Food Pantry—6th and Vine, Davenport; Headed by Sr. Marilyn Shierbrock

*New Hope Presbyterian Food Pantry— 4209 W. Locust, Davenport—Director Sylvia Seymour is a Scott County Master Gardener

*Friendly House—1221 Myrtle St., Davenport. The Kids’ Gardening Committee teaches pre-school children and maintains a summer garden with elementary school children.



The following Master Gardeners and Interns have items to be picked up from the MG Annual meeting. All items are in the MG office.

New Master Gardeners that received their badges remember to stop in and get the fastener of your choice for your badge. (Only one MG picked hers up at the meeting.) Your certificates are also here to be picked up as they did not get distributed at the meeting.

Colleen Adrian
Sue Clark
Hal Davis
Joan Haberkamp
Sandra Jurgens
Joyce Lee
Christine Rice
Dean Stotz

Jeremy Bengé
James Danielson
Bud Forbes
Sharon Helm
Walt Kurth
Daisy Newberry
Joan Russell
Kelly Taylor

Karen Beetham
Michele Dane
JoAnn Garlough
Dan Hoepfer
Bob Krush
Kim Scully
Cheri Slavens
Brian Thomas

Marilyn Bradley
Chuck Doss
Pat Guzis
Kathy Hoepfer
Sheila Lang
Susan Reinders (from 06)
Marie Sterbenz
Tracy Tuftee

Volunteer Committee Choices

If you did NOT attend the annual meeting, read this first.

The active committees for 2008 are:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Ed/Speaker's Bureau | <input type="checkbox"/> Hort Clinic | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class Facilitators | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycle Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Planting and Care | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-H Fair Judging | <input type="checkbox"/> Historians |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kids' Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Growers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kids' Education After Hours | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Fest | <input type="checkbox"/> Demo Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension Office Garden | | |

Choose the committees you are interested in and email your choices to Vicki at vgall@iastate.edu. If you don't have email access, Vicki will take your committee choices over the phone. **Please have your choices to Vicki by Feb 9th.**

Everybody READ THIS—

The committee choices for all MGs will be entered into the computer and **AFTER FEB 8th** we will be mailing a list of your personal committee choices to you along with a directory of the Committee Chairs for 2008. Everyone should receive this information no later than February 27th. A complete list of all the committees and all the committee members will be available online by the end of February. We will publish the link in the next issue of the Dirt.

2009 MG Advisory Board:

Year Elected (term)	Name	Notes
2009 (1 st)	Vito Fiore	Chair
2008 (1 st)	Harry Healey	Vice Chair
2008 (2 nd)	Kathy Wolfe	Secretary
2009 (2 nd)	Bobbi Goodin	Treasurer
2009 (2 nd)	Dick Sayles	
2009 (1 st)	Kathy Hoepfer	
2008 (1 st)	Rich Craddick	
2009 (1yr term)	Joann Garlough	
N/A	Marilyn Buel	Volunteer Coordinator (nonvoting)
N/A	Kate Gordon	Intern Rep. (nonvoting)
N/A	Duane Gissel / Becky Bray	Staff (nonvoting)

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



2009 Mother's Day Basket Sale



Shade baskets on pickup day



Shade basket at end of season

May 9, 2009



2009 Plant Sale

Mother's Day Basket pickup days will be May 8 & 9,
The plant sale day will be May 9, 2009
Watch for the "name the plant sale" contest next month

2009 Adult Education Survey Results

Submitted by Ray Wolf

Thanks to those of you who attended the Master Gardener Annual Meeting and completed the survey for the Adult Education Committee/Speakers Bureau. Eighteen Master Gardeners volunteered to serve as speakers and/or teach classes on a range of interesting topics. This level of support will allow us to aggressively share our expertise with other gardeners in the community in fulfillment of our mission.

The survey also queried your interest on topics for classes. Your responses will help us plan our class schedule for 2009. So...here are the top 10 topics Scott County Master Gardeners are interested in:

10. Iris and Bonsai (tie)
9. Annuals, Shade Gardens, and Landscaping (tie)
8. Native Plants and Trees & Shrubs (tie)
7. Herbs and Hostas
6. Ornamental Grasses
5. Hummingbird/bird Gardens
4. Daylilies and All Season Landscaping (tie)
3. Wild Flowers
2. Butterfly Gardens and Perennials (tie)

And the #1 most requested topic: Container Gardens

Keep checking the DIRT for the latest on Scott County MG classes. And be sure to attend, learn and support your fellow Master Gardeners when the classes are announced.

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO DURING WINTER

Submitted by Wendi Laake

10. Organize your seed catalogs.
9. Draw up a garden plan (from memory of course.)
8. Stare dreamily at your house plants.
7. Brave the cold and feed the birds.
6. Visit the conservatory at Vander Veer (don't forget to bring hot cocoa for the staff.)
5. Join a garden club.
4. Force some bulbs.
3. Take a gardening class and get a jump start on those CEUs.
2. Build a lawn ornament out of snow i.e. a snowman.
1. **Pray that your perennials make it through the long hard freeze.**

Social Committee Meeting

When: Monday, February 2, 2009

Where: Scott County Extension Office

Time: 6:30 p.m.

We will be making plans for the Chicago Flower Show bus trip happening in March.

Winter Impacts on Our Gardens

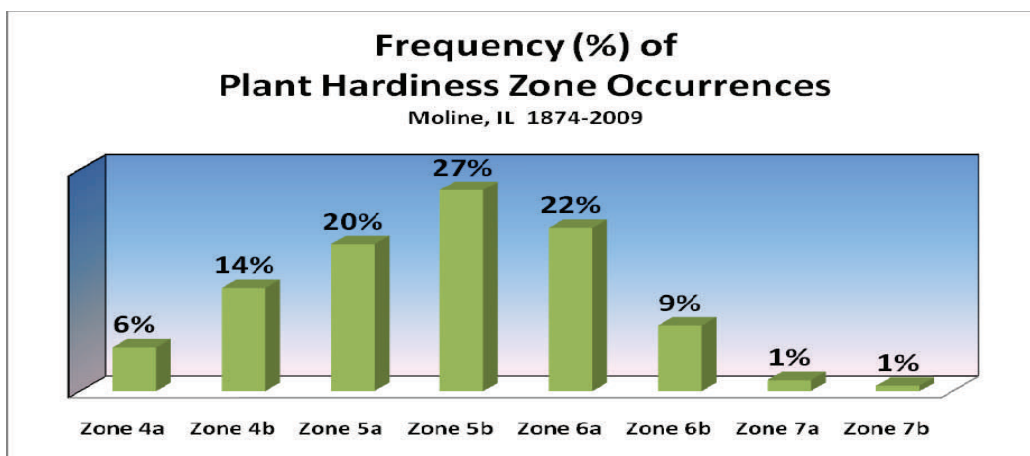
Submitted by Ray Wolf

The early start and intensity of the cold, snowy and icy weather this winter has certainly provided opportunity to remain in the warm indoors and reflect on garden plans for the upcoming season. As we plan for the eventual spring warm-up, the question arises, what did this harsh winter do to my yard or garden? And how often do we get winters with extreme cold like this?

Daily temperatures have been recorded in the Quad Cities (either Davenport or Moline) since 1874. The current official station is the Quad Cities International Airport where a temperature of -27 °F was recorded on January 16 of this year, just 1 degree short of the all time record of -28 °F set in 1996.

By looking at the coldest temperature recorded each year, and comparing that value to the USDA Plant Hardiness map temperature thresholds, we can see how extreme each winter has been in terms of plant hardiness zones. The Quad Cities area is designated Zone 5a where winter temperatures are expected to bottom out between 15 and 20 °F degrees below zero. But we know this year was colder, while some winters do not even reach -15 °F.

The frequency of how cold our winters were in terms of plant hardiness zones is shown in the figure. A couple of things stand out. First, there is much year to year variability with some winters as cold as Zone 4a (about 6%, including this year) and even a few (2%) as balmy as Zone 7a or 7b where winter temperatures do not reach below zero. This variability is a natural part of our climate in the Midwest. Our proximity to both very cold and mild air masses impacts our winter differently from year to year, depending on how the jet stream and storm tracks guide them.



The second thing of note is that even though the Quad Cities is designated Zone 5a, we have had more winters in Zone 5b, at least in the immediate city area. This is due to the urban heat island effect where the concentration of population and infrastructure such as roads and buildings in the densely populated cities results in a slight, but noticeable, warming compared to the outlying rural areas and small towns. So if you are in Geneseo or Eldridge or Walcott, temperatures average slightly colder and more fitting of Zone 5a. As an example, on January 16th when the Quad Cities Airport dropped to -27 °F, Glenn Drowns at the Sand Hill Preservation Center in western Clinton County plummeted to -38 °F. So the more densely populated areas of Davenport, Moline, Rock Island and Bettendorf experienced low temperatures that were not as cold as the surrounding rural areas.

Thus due to the extreme cold this winter, some negative impacts in our yard and gardens can be expected. But, we will need to wait until spring to see how things fair. Fortunately this cold outbreak occurred in the middle of our winter season. In 2007, an unusually warm March followed by a record-breaking Arctic outbreak the first week of April resulted in over \$2 billion in damage to the agricultural and horticultural industries in the central and southeast United States. Plants responded to an unusually warm March and broke dormancy. This made them more vulnerable to the freeze in April. So the timing and duration of the cold are both factors affecting a plants ability to survive extreme temperatures.

Snow cover can be both a detriment and benefit. On the up side, snow cover insulates the ground like a thermal blanket, so herbaceous perennials which reestablish each season from underground roots or bulbs may not fair so poorly. On the down side, air temperatures over snow cover average about 15 °F colder than if the ground was bare, because the snow reflects much of the daytime sunshine rather than allowing it to warm up the air. Hence one reason for our cold winter is due, in part, to the number of days we have had snow on the ground. Plant material above the protective snow cover has really been stressed by the extreme cold compared to most years. If that's not enough, the snow also covers food for deer, rabbits, and other wildlife. They will then browse on vegetation above the snow sometimes causing significant damage to plants as I have observed on blue spruce, roses, and euonymus in my yard.

Plant hardiness zones are a useful, though not perfect, tool for assessing a plants potential for success in your garden. But as we have seen, some winters are colder than Zone 5a-b, and this might explain why, in some cases, plant labeled for Zone 5 may not survive a given winter here. And you can certainly see the odds of successfully overwintering a Zone 6 or 7 plant for more than a year or two without some extraordinary protection efforts.

Deer Me

By Jackie Arvidson

Many of us have problems with deer and other eaters of plants. This is particularly true in long snow covered winters. Last year with the heavy snow we lost all the leaves off our holly bushes to say nothing about other shrubs that became food for hungry foraging deer. I can't fault them for being hungry and eating whatever they can reach; but I can try to focus the damage away from favored plants. This year we are trying some new methods in addition to the old tried and true methods.

The first new method uses 4 foot high plastic fencing to surround the hollies and a fair sized rhododendron. This is the ugly orange snow fencing you see along highways or at construction sites. We installed the fence a few feet from the bushes anchored with ties and steel posts. The posts were put in long before a hard frost. The fencing was added in December just before the heavy snows arrived. So far not even a deer track shows around the fencing. It appears to be working because we have seen the deer feasting on unprotected shrubs.

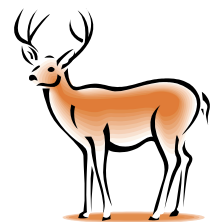
The second new method uses plant protector bags. These bags are white fabric that looks like row cover. The bags let air, light and moisture in, and are reusable and recyclable. They have easy to use slip ties at two ends. They come in two sizes 40 x 45 and 50 x 55 which works well for small shrubs just getting started. These bags also come in green. The company mantra is "Helps prevent damage from frost, salt, wind, rain and cold weather." They protect plants from the deer and other critters.

The third new method uses small fruit bags. The mesh bags that grapefruit, oranges, limes, etc. come in provide perfect enclosures for small conifers and other miniature plants that we have around our garden railroad. The various sizes provide sizes fit most miniature plants and come with a string tie closure at the base. The bags do need to be held in place, though. We used large nails, one pounded in on 2 sides.

These new methods are used in addition to the cages that are used for some plants. These cages are circles of hog fencing made in various circumferences. The deer easily reach over if the fence is not large enough in circumference. For one plant I added a grate to the top of the cage this year to slow down the nibbling. The cages are also used in spring to protect new plants and favored specimens. The cages are relatively inconspicuous.

The last protective method we use involves chain link fencing. Sections of chain link are woven around young trees leaving space for growth. This keeps deer from marking the flexible trees and de-barking them. The fencing is removed when the tree is about 5" in diameter. The fencing removes easily by taking out the woven wire link.

Not all of our methods are beautiful. Color selection on the fencing and bags can improve the visual impact of the protection methods. Of course, white bags blend into the snow. We would rather have the protection than the leafless plants. In addition, these methods will help prevent winter burn and wind damage. We hope our latest methods are successful this year with our already record snows.



Thoughts From The Belly

By: Dan Mays – Ironbelly1@aol.com

Last month I mentioned that I would provide a review of a new book, [Plant-Driven Design: Creating Gardens That Honor Plants, Place, and Spirit](#) by Scott Ogden and Lauren Springer Ogden. However, before I offer opinions on a design book, let me first establish the true meaning of landscape design – it does not even come close to what most falsely believe – and therein lays the quandary.

A gardener's design dilemma is founded in the inescapable fact that plants mean everything to a gardener. On the converse, (oversimplifying here) plants mean almost nothing to a designer. Plants are merely one of the chosen materials used to facilitate a design. In fact, if you listen to formally trained landscape architects, they will often use the term "plant materials." Hardscape (paths, art objects, buildings, land formations etc.) is more important than plants in creating a design. Landscape design has more to do with how the area is used rather than how it looks. To quote Professor Bill Boon, who taught at Iowa State University for 25 years and is a professor emeritus in landscape architecture, "Landscape architects create spaces." Another renowned landscape architect, Steve Martino, famously echos that sentiment. He states that when he starts a new design, rather than plants, "I think about developing space using hardscape elements. I think plants are incidental to the garden and that it needs to be successful without plants."

In other words, classically trained designers are typically more civil engineer than gardener. The primary concerns are:

- How is the area going to be used?
- How are people going to navigate the area?
- How can the given space be best utilized to accommodate the intended use?
- How will drainage issues be addressed?
- Do the planned improvements meet code requirements?
- And, oh yeah ... what plant material should be chosen to reach those objectives?

Of course, I'm exaggerating ... but only a bit. Perhaps now we can begin to see why most gardeners become so confused and frustrated when designing their own landscape. Flowers are the last thing a designer considers. However, for a gardener, flowers are the first (and regrettably, sometimes the only) thing they consider.

If one stands back and objectively assesses the practice of design, it becomes rather obvious that gardeners place too much emphasis on plants and architects, not enough. ...and now, along come Scott and Lauren Springer Ogden.

They make a powerful argument for letting the plants lead the design. This book has already drawn some criticism from designers with a formal education background. Some feel they are being unfairly treated. To be sure, the Ogdens directly challenge and at times chastise academia. However, there are also designers who feel this new book should become required reading for every university program that teaches landscape design. I am from the camp that feels the criticism offered by this book is long overdue. However, let me be clear that battle lines should not be drawn. To the contrary, objective debate is a good thing. This book offers a thoughtful counterpoint to the prevailing wisdom. Too many beautiful examples (with explanations) of plant centric design are given to pompously deny that success cannot be garnered with this approach. There is merit in both approaches. The Ogdens celebrate plants. And why should other gardeners feel guilty if they celebrate plants as well?

Setting aside the excellent, insightful content of the book; I am enjoyably amazed it is also full of gorgeous color photos. This to me could almost be considered a coffee table book. This is all for less than \$25 (Amazon pricing.) In the past, color photos were sparsely used in popular books because they quickly escalated the cost beyond what most were willing to pay. This is one case where I reluctantly welcome the rise of book printing in China.

One minor criticism is the overuse of botanical names – not in the text – but rather in the notes that accompany the photographs. Some may find this a little disconcerting that common plant names are not also given. To be fair, many of the plants pictured don't have common names. However, unless one is fairly well versed in botanical nomenclature, the photo captions may prove more frustrating than helpful. I suggest concentrating on the message of the photos.

Read the book. You will be glad you did. Learn how to celebrate plants AND improve your design.

How to Recycle Your Real Christmas Tree

Submitted by: Wendi Laake

In our current “Green Craze” it has been recommended that we purchase live/real Christmas Trees instead of an artificial tree. Artificial trees are not recommended due to the amount of chemicals used in manufacture and disposal of said trees. So if you are unlike me (I have a 37 year old hand-me-down artificial tree that still looks great) and purchased a real Christmas tree for the holidays, what do you do with that puppy now that the holidays are over? Well, if you are like most Americans you put it out on the curb for city crews to pick for disposal or recycling via mulch. But come on we are Master Gardeners, some of the most resourceful and “green” global citizens this planet has ever seen. We can do better! Here is a list of ideas for your tree.

1. Bonfire wood, conifer wood is not recommended indoors due to the high levels of creosol.
2. Recycle your Christmas tree by creating a wildlife habitat. Remove the branches from your Christmas tree and arrange them to create a refuge for wildlife in your area. You can enjoy watching the wildlife enter and leave your yard and may even have the opportunity to photograph them.
3. Make potpourri and closet sachets from needles and cones.
4. Use branches in floral arrangements and winter décor.
5. Cut larger parts, the trunk, into sections. Drill a hole and use as a candle holder.
6. Donate to the U.S. Forest Service for fish habitat.
7. Make a bird feeder by cutting the limbs from the tree leaving two to three-inch stubs on which birds can perch. Cut a sixteen-inch length and drill half-inch holes about half an inch deep above each stub. Scatter a few more drill holes around the trunk for birds that don't require perches such as woodpeckers. Insert a heavy-duty screw eye into the top and add a few drops of wood glue to secure it. Tie a long length of rope to the screw eye and hang the feeder. Make a mixture using bird seeds, cereal such as oatmeal, peanut butter or suet and overfill the holes with it.
8. Make a raised garden bed. Ask your neighbors for their trees and make a raised bed in your garden. Remove all branches, drill holes in the trunk, stack several of them with the drilled holes aligned and drive a piece of re-bar through them into the ground.
9. Make steps and handrails. Construct trails, steps and handrails on wooded lots or on embankments with recycled tree trunks cut to length.
10. Make yard furniture by stripping all branches from the tree and using the trunk to make a quaint bench or chair. Use the limbs to make bentwood backs and arms for the chair.
11. Make an arbor or trellis using several trees for green beans or vines to climb. You can also clean the tree trunk of all limbs and cut it into garden stakes for tall plants or tomatoes.
12. Construct picture frames by removing branches and cut the trunk into one-inch slabs. Cut these into equal pieces and miter the corners. Staple the mitered corners together.
13. Cut the Christmas tree trunks into slabs or hollow out the trunk and then make a birdhouse using one of the free patterns found at: <http://www.freeww.com/birdhouses.html>
14. Use both the trunk and the limbs to create doll house dishes, dolls, ironing board, chairs, beds, tables and other furniture.
15. Make ornaments for next year's tree. Cut the trunk into thin rounds, paint with festive scenes, drill a small hole and thread with twine or ribbon for a hanger.



Just remember Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!

Historian Committee

Nancy Nelson, Chair

Thank you so much to the following Master Gardeners who helped on the Historian committee for the 2008 year:

Doug McDonald for helping identify some of the Master Gardeners and activities from the early years of the program.

Joleen Bakken, Ladonna Czachowski and Amy Hinke for helping label and arrange the photos, news paper articles and memorabilia in the scrapbook.

As this new year begins, please remember to take photos of your committee in action. We would like to include them in the scrapbook. (And remember to include the names of people, date and activity for each photo.)



Yard Clippings

Submitted by Christine Rice



I don't know whether nice people tend to grow roses or growing roses makes people nice. – Roland A. Browne, page 43.

Go, lovely Rose,
Tell her that wastes her Time and me,
That now she knows,
When I resemble her to thee,
How sweet and fair she seems to be.
--Edmond Waller, *Poems* (1645), page 60.

The rose is a rose,
And always was a rose.
But the theory now goes
That the apple's a rose,
And the pear is and so's
The plum I suppose.

The dear only knows
What will next prove a rose.
You, of course, are a rose—
But were always a rose.
--Robert Frost, "The Rose Family," *Collected Poems* (1930) Page 61.

Rose is a rose is a rose is a rose.
Gertrude Stein, "Sacred Emily," (1913),
Geography and Plays (1922), page 62.

As for the roses, you could not help feeling that roses are the only flowers that impress people at garden parties; the only flowers that everybody is certain of knowing. –Katharine Mansfield, "The Garden Party," *The Garden Party and Other Stories*, (1922), page 77.

There is simply the rose; it is perfect in every moment of its existence.
--Ralph Waldo Emerson, (1803-1882), page 78.

Won't you come into the garden? I would like my roses to see you.
--Richard Brinsley Sheridan, page 46.

"I haven't much time to be fond of anything," says Sergeant Cuff. "But when I have a moment's fondness to bestow, most times...the roses get it." --Wilkie Collins, page 42.

Roses do comfort the heart.
--William Langham, *The Garden of Health*, (1579), page 66.

The Quotable Gardener, Editor Charles Elliot.
New York: The Lyons Press. 1999. Pages 42, 43, 46, 60, 61, 62, 66, 77, 78.

Upcoming Classes & Events

CEUs	Course #	Topic	When	Where	Cost	Instructor	Registration Information
		Master Gardener Advisory Board Meeting	February 5, 2009 6:30 p.m.	ISU Scott County Extension 875 Tanglefoot Ln., Bett			
*	-	Winter Gardening Fair	February 7, 2009	Kirkwood Comm. College 6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa	\$49.00	Various	Kirkwood Community College (319) 398-1022 or 1-800-332-8833
2	-	Second Sunday Garden Forum: Hosta Highlights	February 8, 2009 2:00 – 4:00 PM	Iowa City Public Library 123 South Linn St. Iowa City, IA 52240	Free	Mark Zilis	NA (Contact Phone: 319-356-5200 option 4)
1.5	-	2009 Winter Ecology Series Flying Flowers	February 10, 2009 6:30-8:00 PM	Black Hawk State Historic Site Watch Tower Lodge 1510 46 th Ave Rock Island, IL	\$6.00 (\$15 for all three sessions)	Lei Thorton	Univ of IL Extension 321 West 2 nd Ave. Milan, IL 61264 (309) 756-9978
1	63211	The Importance of Honeybees	February 14, 2009 9:00 – 10:00 AM	Bickelhaupt Arboretum 340 S 14 th Clinton, IA	\$10.00	David Hayes	Clinton Community College 563-244-7100 or 800-336-3907
1.5	-	2009 Winter Ecology Series Insects: Friends or Foes?	February 17, 2009 6:30-8:00 PM	Black Hawk State Historic Site Watch Tower Lodge 1510 46 th Ave Rock Island, IL	\$6.00 (\$15 for all three sessions)	Dr Mark Shour Phil Crandall	Univ of IL Extension 321 West 2 nd Ave. Milan, IL 61264 (309) 756-9978
1.5	-	2009 Winter Ecology Series Green Gardening: Reliable, Colorful, Easy!	February 24, 2009 6:30-8:00 PM	Black Hawk State Historic Site Watch Tower Lodge 1510 46 th Ave Rock Island, IL	\$6.00 (\$15 for all three sessions)	Dan Mays Amber An- dress	Univ of IL Extension 321 West 2 nd Ave. Milan, IL 61264 (309) 756-9978
*	-	Shade Tree Short Course and INLA Tradeshow	February 25-27, 2009	Scheman Building Iowa State University Ames, Iowa	TBA	Various	Register on line at: http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/ mnet/shadetree/home.html (registration forms available in the MG office)
*	-	University of IL Rock Island Master Gardeners Nursery School: Lessons in Gardening	February 28, 2009	I-Wireless Center, Moline, IL	\$45.00	Various	Register online at http:// web.extension.uiuc.edu/ rockisland/
		2009 Chicago Flower & Garden Show Navy Pier, Chicago, IL	Sat, March 7, 2009	Board the Bus at Scott County Extension at 6:00 am	\$45.00		Reservations by check by February 16th to: ISU Scott County Extension 875 Tanglefoot Ln., Bett
*	-	Horticulture in the Heartland	March 7, 2009 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM	Clinton Community College 1000 Lincoln Blvd Clinton, IA	\$35.00	Various	Clinton Community College 563-244-7100 or 800-336-3907
4	-	Second Sunday Garden Forum: Perennial selection - the new, the old, and the unusual	March 8, 2009 1:00 – 5:00 PM	Iowa City Public Library 123 South Linn St. Iowa City, IA 52240	Free	Deb Walser	NA (Contact Phone: 319-356-5200 option 4)
3	-	Pruning Ornamental Trees & Shrubs	March 14, 2009 9-12:00am	ISU Scott County Extension 875 Tanglefoot lane Bettendorf, IA	\$5.00	Duane Gissel	ISU Scott County Extension 563-359-7577
*	63835	Art of Gardening in Muscatine County	March 21, 2009 8:00 AM – 4:15 PM	Muscatine Comm. College Student Center 152 Colorado St Muscatine, IA	\$35.00	Various	Muscatine Comm. College 563-288-6161 or 800-351-4669
2	-	Tree Grafting Workshop	March 28, 2009 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	ISU Linn County Extension Conference Room 3279 7th Ave., Suite 140 Marion, IA	TBA	Dr Patrick O'Malley	ISU Linn County Extension (319) 377-9839
*	-	All Iowa Horticulture Exposition	April 3-4, 2009	Bridge View Conference Ctr Ottumwa, IA	\$10.00 before 2/15 \$15.00 after 2/15	TBA	More info and registration at www.iahort.org
4	-	Second Sunday Garden Forum: Good Bugs vs Bad Bugs - how to tell the difference	April 5, 2009 1:00 – 5:00 PM	Iowa City Public Library 123 South Linn St. Iowa City, IA 52240	Free	Dr Donald Lewis	NA (Contact Phone: 319-356-5200 option 4)
0	-	Earth Day Celebration	April 25, 2009 5:00 – 7:00 PM	Bickelhaupt Arboretum 340 S 14 th Clinton, IA	Free	NA	-
0	63415	Blooms in a Bag or Boot	April 25, 2009 9:00 – 10:00 AM	Bickelhaupt Arboretum 340 S 14 th Clinton, IA	\$15.00	Linda Corne- lius	Clinton Community College 563-244-7100 or 800-336-3907
*	-	Second Annual Hillside Prairie Conference <i>Slash, Burn and Graze, Is That Any Way to Treat a Hill Prairie?</i>	May 1 – 2, 2009	Augustana College Rock Island, IL	\$55 before 3/1 \$75 after 3/1	various	http://www.augustana.edu/ hillprairieconference/ register.pdf
		2009 Plant Sale					More Information in further Gardener's Dirt
*	To be determined by sessions attended. Submit proof of sessions attended to the ISU Scott County Extension Horticulturist.						

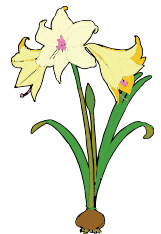
The Gardener's Dirt

Scott County Extension
875 Tanglefoot Lane
Bettendorf, IA 52722-1609
(563) 359-7577 Fax (563) 355-6569
www.extension.iastate.edu/scott

'Tis the Season to Grow an Amaryllis

Submitted by Wendi Laake

If you need a nice project to make it through the winter, I suggest forcing an Amaryllis bulb. Amaryllis *Hippeastrum* is native to South America. There are over 80 species of *Hippeastrum* but the varieties commonly grown in the U.S. are Dutch Hybrids. Amaryllis and Barbados Lily are *Hippeastrum*'s common names. Amaryllis is the old genus name.



Colors include white, pink, red and pink and red streaked with white. In nature *Hippeastrum* flowers at the end of spring but in the northern hemisphere potted bulbs are forced and are a traditional Christmas flower and gift. Double and dwarf varieties are available. Picotee, pure white with a finely penciled red border. Red Peacock, the prize-winning red double and Papilio, light green with mauve, and Dwarf Lemon-Lime, light lemon yellow blending into a lime green center are some of the rarest varieties. Common varieties start at about \$10 and Amaryllis are widely available in gift packages.

Amaryllis usually put up a 24 inch stem with four flowers that can be up to 12 inch across. The same Amaryllis bulb can be forced year after year. I once heard Craig Hignight, Rock Island Master Gardener, say that he had an Amaryllis bulb that was 25 plus years old and it put up six stems (a stunning 24 flowers.)

Amaryllis bulbs should be planted in the fall in well drained soil rich in organic matter with just the tip of the bulb exposed. Bulb should have very little room in the pot. They like full sun or part-shade. Time to bloom is typically 6-8 weeks. Water and feed well throughout the growing season and allow the bulb to dry after the foliage dies down. Protect from snails. Bulbs can be planted outdoors in mid-summer to late summer to increase the size of the bulb and get additional stems and blooms but be cautioned that squirrels love to dig them up.