

# THE GARDENER'S DIRT

*The Latest Scoop from the Scott County Master Gardeners*

April 2009

## Tree Planting and Care Committee

*Submitted by Wayne Hannel*

**Event:** Tree Planting Day in Bettendorf

**Date:** April 25, 2009 (Saturday)

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Place:** The meeting place is at the Maintenance Center (4403 Devils Glen Road) behind the Post Office in Bettendorf. All volunteers will meet here for initial sign-in and site assignments.

Bettendorf Trees Are Us and the Bettendorf Tree Committee (through Bettendorf Parks and Recreation) will be planting trees in Bettendorf on **Saturday, April 25, 2009**. The planting crew likely will consist of a number of high school students as well as interested citizens.

**Master Gardeners** are needed to help supervise the planting crew and show the correct way to plant trees. There will be a short tree planting learning session for everyone at 8:30. The group will be divided so that there are knowledgeable adults with each group of tree planters. There will be an enhanced educational session conducted prior to planting.

The 44 (balled and burlapped and container) trees will be planted by the volunteers along 53<sup>rd</sup> in Bettendorf. This planting will commence where we left off last spring (2008) and proceed east to the round-about. Trees to be planted are: 11 littleleaf indens (*Tilia cordata*), 11 Lacebark Elms (*Ulmus parvifolia* 'Alee'), 11 bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum* 'Shawnee Brave'), and 11 European hornbeam / ironwood *Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata').

Holes for the trees will be predug (sod removed and some soil removed.) The holes may need to be widened to create a saucer-shaped depression at least twice the width of the root system. Some digging may be needed to reach the right depth. (It is important that the trees not be planted too deep.) A small dike will be constructed around the tree and mulch will be applied. The trees will be watered.

**Tools:** Bring shovels (a round tip shovel or solid spade seem to work best), garden rakes (to rake up soil excavated from planting hole), bolt cutters (if you have a pair), and work gloves (protection from wire baskets, the mulch has splinters.)

We will meet rain or shine. Refreshments will be provided. And remember: **Safety first.**

**Master Gardeners** are invited to help in this effort (even if you did not sign up for the committee.)

**For additional information and / or to sign up to help,** call Wayne Hannel (Chairperson, Tree Planting and Care Committee) at 332-8747 (leave a message if no one answers) or e-mail me at [whannel@juno.com](mailto:whannel@juno.com). I need to have a head count of volunteers by April 18, 2009.

➔ NOTE: I have been the Chairperson of this committee for some time now. If someone else would like to be Chairperson (or Assistant Chairperson) of this committee next year, let me know.

### 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.*

## Arbor Day Tree Planting

**Date:** April 24, 2009 (Friday)

**Time:** The ceremony will be sometime between 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 am depending on the Mayor's schedule. The ceremony takes about ½ hour.

**Place:** Bettendorf Library, 2950 Learning Campus Drive, at 18th Street, Bettendorf, Iowa.

An Arbor Day observance and proclamation is one of the standards established by The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters for cities to maintain Tree City U.S.A. status. The City of Bettendorf has received designation as a Tree City U.S.A. annually since April 1997. A memorial tree for Bob Ofner, long-time volunteer at the library, will be planted.

Anticipated attendees include: Bettendorf Mayor – Michael J. Freemire; Director of Parks and Recreation – Steve Grimes; other city officials as available; Bettendorf Trees Are Us Committee members; Bettendorf Tree Committee members; news media.

**Everyone is invited!**

Wayne Hannel

ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardener; Chair, Tree Planting & Care Committee  
Iowa Community Tree Steward  
Bettendorf Trees Are Us Committee  
Bettendorf Tree Committee

### City of Bettendorf Public Works Day (Recycle)

*Submitted by Ed Sharkness, Committee Chair*

We support the City of Bettendorf Public Works Day (Recycle.) We educate the public regarding composting and answer questions with the portable horticulture clinic. This is a one day program.

Our next action day is Saturday, May 16, 2009. The location is the Bettendorf Public Works Building, located at 4403 Devils Glen Road. The building is set back one block behind the Post Office. The work shifts are from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Travel time is additional. The maximum service hours available are the two shifts of two hours each plus travel time. Site preparation is also available.

To sign up, call Scott County Extension at 359-7577 after May 1, 2009.

Activities are:

1. Hand out pamphlets.
2. Manage the portable horticulture clinic.
3. Monitor the televised education.
4. Omnibus person.



“Last night, there came a frost, which has done great damage to my garden.... It is sad that Nature will play such tricks on us poor mortals, inviting us with sunny smiles to confide in her, and then, when we are entirely within her power, striking us to the heart.” ~Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The American Notebooks*

Ah! Spring in the Midwest...As you begin getting those pinkies dirty – please remember our

(Yet to be named)

### **2009 ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardener Plant Sale.**

Public sale May 9, 2009.

Master Gardener pre-sale May 8, 2009

**As you divide your perennials – make a division for you, a division for the neighbor and a division for our own ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardener cause!**

Just remember these 5 points!

- *Size - 3-4” to large 3-5 gallon pots*
- *No woody plants*
- *Please identify if you can (preferably with complete botanical name including cultivar if appropriate.)*
- *No diseased plants (or insect infested.)*
- *Pot up 2 weeks or more ahead of the sale to allow the plants to become established in the pot. (No newly dug wilted in the pot plants) **very important.***

You can drop off your plant donations Saturday, May 2, 2009, 9:00 – 12:00 or Wednesday, May 6 through Friday May 8, 9:00 – 4:00.

**The Plant Sale planning committee is looking for Master Gardeners who would like to do a demo booth for the plant sale.** We have one booth already! Please consider having a booth.

- Must be educational and garden related.
- Can be a fundraising project (funds to go to the general fund.)
- Must be approved before April 20th. Email the specifics to [kjhoeper@msn.com](mailto:kjhoeper@msn.com) Subject: “ MG Demo”

Any Committee is invited to have an educational or demonstration booth at our plant sale. You could give a little history of your committee projects for the public or any other topic you would like to bring up. These booths will also have to be approved by the powers that be. Please send specifics to [kjhoeper@msn.com](mailto:kjhoeper@msn.com) Subject: MG Committee Booth.

**DONATIONS for the plant sale:** We need clean containers to pot up the perennials. 3-4 inch to 3-5 gallon. Please clean them with a bleach solution. Drop them off at the ISU Scott County Extension office in the kitchen area.

If you need pots please pick them up from the Extension office. There are some in the Master Gardener supply room, if there are not any in the kitchen.

Please read Sue Laiman’s article about how to treat your perennials for our sale.

*Divide and Conquer*  
*A Plant Potting Primer*  
*Submitted by Sue Laimans*

It won't be long before we are scouring our gardens in search of plant divisions to pot up for our annual plant sale. We want them to look their best so here is a quick refresher ....

1. Pots, with drain holes in the bottom, should be cleaned and rinsed in a 10 percent bleach solution.
2. On a cloudy day, if possible, dig up seedlings, divide plants & pot them at least 10 days before the sale so they will have time to recuperate from transplant shock.
3. You can buy potting soil but since I use new soil in my containers each spring, I use that previous year's soil for the sale pots.
4. When digging up volunteers (seedlings), try to avoid disturbing the roots.
5. Using the right tools to divide makes a big difference. Dig up the plant & remove the soil enough where you can clearly see the crown of the plant and root system. Divide the plant so each division has at least 2 to 3 buds & a good root system. Some plants, like daisies & mums, can be pulled apart gently with your fingers. Others are more difficult & though you may struggle, you will conquer! Use pitchforks back to back to pull apart the roots of hostas or siberian iris or use a sharp spade. I find an old butcher knife comes in handy with threadleaf coreopsis and garden shears with 'Pumila' astilbe.
6. Pot up the plants and water them thoroughly. Place them in a shady spot for about a week or until they look fully recovered. Then provide the amount of light they enjoy.
7. Be sure to provide plant info on our plant donation form. If you are unsure, list as much as you know.
8. Before bringing them to the Extension, water well and wipe the pots. Trim off any dead leaves & blooms or scraggly stems.
9. If you have never divided a particular plant before, do some research on it first. Some plant roots can cause a skin rash so be sure to wear gloves. Others, should never be divided such as Gas Plant and Carolina Lupines.

Happy potting!

**HORT CLINIC NEWS**

*Submitted by Bob Krush*

The Hort Clinic opens for Master Gardener staffing on April 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through October. When you want to sign up to work in the Hort Clinic, you can find dates and times which are available by looking at the Hort Clinic calendar online at <http://calendar.yahoo.com/scottcomg> . Then call the extension office at 359-7577 or e-mail Wendy at [wlarp@iastate.edu](mailto:wlarp@iastate.edu) to sign up.

The first-year MGs will be mentored in the Hort Clinic by JoAnn Garlough, Sharon Helm, David Sunleaf, Karen Truesdell, and Bob Krush. Many thanks to these MGs for volunteering for this important activity.

(Yet to be named!)

**2009 ISU Extension Scott County Master Gardener Plant Sale**

**May 9, 2009**

**Master Gardener Pre-Sale**

**May 8, 2009**

**2009 Swift Greenhouse Perennial Sale**

As part of our 2009 plant sale we will be offering flats of plants from Swift Greenhouse to our Master Gardeners at a discount. The Swift Greenhouse plant listing will be sent in an email to all Master Gardeners. Please read the last page of that listing for information about the plants. You may go on line to see the Swift Greenhouse catalog at <http://www.swiftgreenhouses.com/CATALOGS.htm>.

- ◆ No annuals or baskets will be ordered again this year.\*\* (**annual herbs are the exception**)
- ◆ **JoAnn Garlough (giowagirl40@juno.com) will be a coordinator for putting together flats for MGs who only want a partial flat. (New this year) 1/2 to 1/4 flats**  
(If you want a full flat contact the ISU Scott County Extension office as before. Information is below.)
- ◆ Order deadline: **April 20, 2009**
- ◆ Prices for **ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardeners:**

<b>3"</b>	<b>32.00 per flat</b>	<b>4"</b>	<b>23.00 per flat</b>
<b>#6</b>	<b>31.00 per flat</b>	<b>#6 premium</b>	<b>37.00 per flat</b>
<b>3 1/2" Herb</b>	<b>29.00 per flat</b>		

**The flats will be available for pickup May 8th at the Master Gardener pre-sale.**

\*\* In previous years the annuals and some baskets did not arrive and funds had to be returned.

**Submit your order to : ISU Scott County Extension  
563-359-7577**

**OR**

**E-mail your order to: Vicki Gall at [vgall@iastate.edu](mailto:vgall@iastate.edu)**

**Your order MUST include the following for each item ordered:**

- ◇ Quantity of flats
- ◇ Pot size
- ◇ Species
- ◇ Cultivar
- ◇ Your cost

Please direct any questions to:

Kathy Hoepfer  
Fundraising Committee Chair  
[kjhoepfer@msn.com](mailto:kjhoepfer@msn.com)  
563-381-3807 after 5:00



## **2009 Mother's Day Plant Sale**

← 2008 end of season shade  
planting.

### ***These premium pots of annuals will make the perfect Mother's Day gift.***

Each pot will be planted by the ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardeners and have live annuals from Allen's Grove Greenhouses especially chosen to create a container that blooms all summer long.

Your purchase will help support the ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardener program and its many projects.

- Baskets are \$25 each. Please designate your choice; herb, shade or sun. 3 to 5 plants presented in a 10" decorative pot.
- Orders and payment must be received by the ISU Scott County Extension office personnel by **April 3, 2009**.
- Call the ISU Scott County Extension office to order 563-359-7577.
- Please designate a **sun, shade or herb** selection. Your special planting will be available for pick up at the ISU Scott County Extension office, 875 Tanglefoot Lane, Bettendorf, on Friday, May 8th (10-4PM) or Saturday, May 9th (9-12AM).

**That special someone will thank you and we will also!**

## Meet Your Advisory Board Member: Kathy Wolfe, Secretary

I was born in Clinton Iowa to a family who loved to garden. I remember many hours working in the vegetable garden during the summer with my Mom, brother, and Dad. Then in the fall the whole family lined up in the kitchen and canned the fruits of our labor. Sometimes it was fun, other times it was a pain, but we always did it as a family.



My Mom and grandmother were also avid flower gardeners, and I still have some of the old varieties in my garden today that they raised. I have some great memories of my grandmother teaching me fun things to do with the plants. We made dolls out of hollyhocks, frog necks out of autumn joy sedum (ask me how to do that, the kids love it), and there is a weed that grows in the cracks of the sidewalk that has a white milky “juice” that is supposed to get rid of warts. (I am reasonably sure it works because I used it once) I should really find out what the name of that plant is, anybody know?

I spent several years in Chicago after high school, “seeing the world”, then married my husband, also from Clinton when he came back from Viet Nam. We lived in Chicago several more years until our first child was on the way. Then back to “good old Iowa” to raise our family. We have 2 boys, or should I say men now, one married, one still living the high life in Vail, Colorado.

I was a stay at home Mom for about 18 years and then went back to the work force, and now I am going to retire and again become a stay at home wife. I became a Master Gardener for several reasons, to join a group of people with the same values and ideas as I have and so that I would be able to find enough to do as a retiree. I love the group of people involved in this organization, gardeners are great people!!

I am currently the secretary of the advisory board (4<sup>th</sup> year) and the chair of the Neighborhood Outreach Committee. I am on several other committees and with all the free time I will have this summer as I retire, plan to get involved in even more.

I love this quote, it really says it all:

*The noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing better than they have ever done before. — Vita Sackville-West*

### 2008 Tree Planting and Care Committee

*Wayne Hannel – Chair, Tree Planting and Care Committee*

**Thanks to the dedicated volunteers** who assisted the Bettendorf Trees Are Us Committee and the Bettendorf Tree Committee (through Bettendorf Parks and Recreation) pruning approximately 75 trees at the Bettendorf Library on March 21, 2009.

Wayne Hannel provided a brief educational session about pruning prior to the hands-on educational activity.

Approximately 23 volunteers (18 Master Gardeners) assisted with the pruning. In addition to the Master Gardeners, volunteers came with many backgrounds (some dual categories): ISU Community Tree Stewards = 2; Bettendorf Tree Committee = 4; Bettendorf Park Board = 1; Bettendorf City Alderman = 1; public volunteer = 1.

Master Gardeners assisting with the effort included:

<b>Marilyn Buel</b>	<b>Vito Fiore</b>	<b>Lois Fradel</b>	<b>Wayne Hannel</b>	<b>Dan Hoepfer</b>
<b>Harry Healey</b>	<b>Sandra Jurgens</b>	<b>Donna Lauritsen</b>	<b>Joyce Lee</b>	<b>Clayton Lloyd</b>
<b>Randy McIntyre</b>	<b>Doug McDonald</b>	<b>Ron Phillips</b>	<b>Phil Roberts</b>	<b>Kim Scully</b>
<b>Ed Sharkness</b>	<b>Diane Soltau</b>	<b>Tracy Tuftee</b>		

It was a sunny 43 degrees at pruning time. Nice day.

Thanks again!

➔ **Remember to turn in your volunteer hours.**

# Get to Know Your Committee Chairs - Volunteer Coordinators

**Marilyn McAllister, MG Class of 2005**



**Favorite time of the year:** I love all the seasons but Spring is my favorite because it is a time of new beginnings. I really enjoy seeing all the new life spring from the ground each year.

**Family:** I am a single mom that works full time and home schools three BOYS; Joey age 16, David age 14 and Sean age 11.

**Favorite Committees:** Well I have two favorite committees

- 1) Class Facilitators because I get to meet new Interns each year and I also get to work with other Master Gardeners. I have met and worked with so many great people.
- 2) Volunteer Coordinators because I have a great Co-committee Chair and I look forward to working with Peggy.

**My Favorite Plant or Flower:** I can't pick one, I love any plant or flower that I don't kill off.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Peggy Dykes, MG Class of 2004**




**Favorite time of the year:** Late spring/early summer when all the perennials are starting to get established. That's the time I begin to revamp the beds by moving, dividing and filling in the gaps with seedlings that have popped up. I love to rearrange and tidy up the lines where plants have jumped course. Then it's off to the nurseries to see what they have new this season.

**Family:** 37 years married to Jerry who stays clear of the flower beds, he likes his lawn and enjoys mowing and trimming. Two daughters, a great son-in-law and a beautiful 5 month old granddaughter who has stolen my heart. (I've already tucked away a small pair of gardening gloves for her.)

**Favorite Committee:** Demo Garden at VandeVeer, I enjoyed working on the "extras" ... building willow fences, painting zoo animals and helping on work days to weed and trim. Also enjoyed researching and writing grants for the Extension Garden. Will enjoy working with Marilyn as the other half of the Volunteer Coordinator.

**My Favorite Plant or Flower:** Solomon seal because of the structure and foliage. To me it says "happy" standing sturdy and tall, overlooking hostas in my north garden.

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



## Thoughts From The Belly

By: Dan Mays – [Ironbelly1@aol.com](mailto:Ironbelly1@aol.com)

“Too many plants are out on the market just because they look different, but an awful lot are not very good plants.” Such was the quoted statement from one of the foremost behind-the-scenes plant breeders in the world, whose work was being featured in March/April 2009 issue of **The American Gardener Magazine**. I was delighted to see someone authoritatively put into words a few of the fragmented thoughts that have flittered through my mind over the years.

The featured (and quoted) propagator was Charles Oliver, owner of The Primrose Path Nursery. The retail portion of the nursery closed in 2001 so Oliver could give full attention to breeding and supplying tissue culture plants to the wholesale market. Mr. Oliver concentrates on shade plants; Heuchera (Coral Bells) in particular.

When the popularity of Heuchera began to explode some fifteen years ago, I have to admit that I, too, was quite smitten. I bought about every new cultivar that appeared on the market. I was enthralled with plants that offered spectacular foliage. It was even better that these were principally shade-loving plants because the home I lived in at that time had nary an area of full sun. These newly developed foliage plants delivered constant color by the bucket-full. Why mess around with flowers when the foliage provides non-stop color? In addition, Heuchera are no-brainers to propagate by cuttings and/or divisions in the spring. \*\*\* Note: Almost impossible to propagate from summer onward.

In spite of the broad spectrum of foliar dazzle, very few of my Heuchera purchased over the years can be found in my gardens today. The total number of Heuchera plants may be greater but the variety is profoundly diminished. Echoing Charles Oliver’s statement: *An awful lot of them were not very good plants.*

Plants in my landscape are always on trial. For the most part, plants either make it on their own or they are toast. Above all, the plants must continue to pump out a garden-worthy display which compliments and adds value to my landscape or they will be replaced by something that does. Yes, I always try to provide optimal siting, soil preparation and coddling during the initial establishment period. However, after that, they either survive on their own or they don’t. I garden – I don’t run a botanical, intensive care unit.

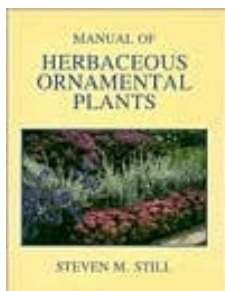
Of the perhaps 25 to 30 cultivars of Heuchera that I once had, principally three stalwarts remain: ‘Plum Pudding’, ‘Green Spice’ (formerly named ‘Eco-Improved’) and ‘Chatterbox’. I also still have a number of ‘Chocolate Ruffles’; which have continued to grow well and prosper. However, in side-by-side comparison with ‘Plum Pudding’, ‘Chocolate Ruffles’ finishes in second place. The leaf edges tend to get a little crispy. I will be replacing this cultivar as I propagate more of the ‘Plum Pudding’.

Merely as a novelty, I have also grown our wild native, *Heuchera richardsonii*. This is one tough little plant! Whenever I spot this native growing in the wild, I am often amazed at the seemingly impossible places it sometimes chooses to grow. There is a reason this native is often found in the parentage of many Heuchera hybrids. On the flip side, perhaps I need to do a little more experimentation of my own with this native species planted in masses. There is always the possibility that I am violating the admonishment learned in the famous little book, *The Richest Man In Babylon*: *Though you search far and wide, sometimes the treasure you seek has always lain just outside your back door.*

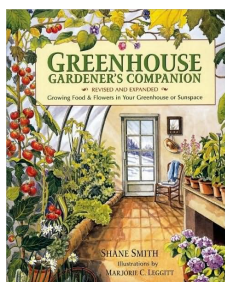
**The Hort Clinic is opening soon**—watch for an announcement about incentives for you to work in the clinic. The Master Gardener Board of Directors appreciates the dedication of those who help answer questions and will be announcing an incentive for workers!

# Thanks!

Thank you to Bev and Phil for donating the following books to the ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardener Library.



**Phil Roberts** for the donation of Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants by Steven Still



**Bev Thies** for the donation of Greenhouse Gardener's Companion by Shane Smith.



## Yard Clippings

*Submitted by Christine Rice*



One swallow does not make a spring; neither does one fine day.

–Aristotle (384-322B.C.), *Nicomachean Ethics*, page 30

A tree is made to live in peace in the color of day and in friendship with the sun, the wind and the rain. Its roots plunge in the fat fermentation of the soil, sucking in its elemental humors, its fortifying juices. Trees always seem lost in a great tranquil dream. The dark rising sap makes them groan in the warm afternoons. A tree is a living being that knows the course of the clouds and presses the storms because it is full of birds' nests.

–Jacques Rouman, *Master of the Dew*, 1946, page 31.

If it thunders on All Fool's Day  
It brings good crops of corn and hay.  
–English Proverb, page 25.

*A Gardener's Nosegay*. Editor Jude Patterson. New York: Barnes and Noble. 2003. Pages 25, 30, 31.

April's rare capricious loveliness.

–Julia Dorr, page 21.

Spring has come when you can put your foot on three daisies at once.

–Anonymous, page 29.

Spring is sooner recognized by plants than by men. – Chinese Proverb, page 29.

I will have no more tall bearded irises. The love affair has ended.

–Allen Lacy, page 40.

The great challenge for the garden designer is not to make the garden look natural, but to make the garden so that the people in it will feel natural.

–Lawrence Halprin, page 11.

A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever. – Anonymous, page 2.

*A Gardener's Bouquet of Quotations*, Editor Maria Polushkin Robbins. New Jersey: The Ecco Press. 1993. Pages 2, 11, 21, 29, 40



Spring is just around the corner...are you set for your season of volunteering? Lots of opportunities are available. Remember that you can volunteer for any offering that sounds interesting even though you didn't make it your original committee choice. You can always contact the Committee Chair, usually more volunteers are needed and the group would welcome your participation.

If you have any questions regarding volunteer opportunities, please shoot us an email at our joint e-mail account: [marilyn-peggy@q.com](mailto:marilyn-peggy@q.com) OR if you have an idea of how you'd like to volunteer, send us your thoughts. Example: maybe you'd like to create a class presentation on your favorite topic. The research and writing is fun for you, however, you freeze when you get in front of a crowd. There might be a MG out there that loves to talk but hates to do the research. It's a good way to share your talents with one another and create a non-traditional way of racking up service hours.

**Tip for the month:** Don't let those volunteer hours get away from you. Keep a detailed record using the service hour record form at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/scott/info/scottmg.htm>. Send the information quarterly to Vicki Gall at [vgall@iastate.edu](mailto:vgall@iastate.edu). This will save you time and brain power when it comes to the end of the year.

Happy gardening! M & P

*"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." - Unknown*

*Upcoming Classes & Events*

CEUs	Course #	Topic	When	Where	Cost	Instructor	Registration Information
		Master Gardener Advisory Board Meeting	April 2, 2009 6:30 p.m.	ISU Scott County Extension Office 875 Tanglefoot Ln., Bett			
*	-	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 <a href="http://www.iahort.org">www.iahort.org</a>
4	-	Second Sunday Garden Forum: Good Bugs vs Bad Bugs - how to tell the difference	April 5, 2009 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library 123 South Linn St. Iowa City, IA 52240	Free	Dr Donald Lewis	NA (Contact Phone: 319-356-5200 option 4)
		Arbor Day Tree Planting	April 24, 2009 Ceremony sometime between 9:00—11:00 a.m.	Bettendorf Library 2950 Learning Campus Drive, Bettendorf			
		Tree Planting Day	April 25, 2009 8:30—11:30 a.m.	Meeting place at the Maintenance Center, 4403 Devils Glen Rd, Bettendorf			More Info: Wayne Hannel at 332-8747 or <a href="mailto:whannel@juno.com">whannel@juno.com</a>
0	-	Earth Day Celebration	April 25, 2009 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Bickelhaupt Arboretum 340 S 14 <sup>th</sup> Clinton, IA	Free	NA	-
0	63415	Blooms in a Bag or Boot	April 25, 2009 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Bickelhaupt Arboretum 340 S 14 <sup>th</sup> Clinton, IA	\$15.00	Linda Cornelius	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	<a href="http://www.augustana.edu/hillprairieconference/register.pdf">http://www.augustana.edu/hillprairieconference/register.pdf</a>
		2009 Plant Sale	May 9, 2009	ISU Scott County Extension Office 875 Tanglefoot Ln., Bett			More Information in this issue of the Gardener's Dirt
		City of Bettendorf Public Works Day (Recycle)	May 17, 2009 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.	Bettendorf Public Works Building, 4403 Devils Glen Rd., Bettendorf			To sign up: ISU Scott County Extension 359-7577
*	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](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/scott)

## Book Review

*Submitted by Bev Thies*

### Greenhouse Gardener's Companion

By Shane Smith

Available at ISU Scott County Master Gardener's Library

In recently going through my gardening books, I discovered an interesting book which I wanted to share with others. It is a detailed book on greenhouse gardening and has been donated to our library.

Chapters include the greenhouse environment, interior design, microclimates, plant selection and propagation and much more. Chapter ten is titled "When Things Go Wrong" and provides problem-solving for pests and diseases. The book includes an extensive appendix with names of helpful organizations, material properties and suggestions for record keeping.

The final chapter looks forward and certainly is timely given the current food problems. People are looking for safer food products and are turning to home gardens and purchasing produce from farmer markets. A solar-heated greenhouse would be another option which would provide year-round products as well as an energy source for the home.

The Cheyenne Botanic Garden, founded by the author, is a well-known example of a community greenhouse. It is very cost efficient providing its own solar energy and uses almost all volunteer labor. The concept of a community greenhouse it also being considered to address world hunger.

