

MASTER GARDENER UPDATE. . . Friday, March 6, 2009
Announcements and news for ISU Extension Master Gardeners, staff, and faculty

IN THIS ISSUE

BUENA VISTA COUNTY PLANTS TO ATTRACT BIRDS AND BALD EAGLE
VIEWING
BOONE COUNTY PROGRAM PASSION BETWEEN TWO RIVERS
IOWA ARBORETUM PRUNING WORKSHOP
2009 SIOUXLAND GARDEN SHOW
POLK COUNTY GET A JUMP ON SPRING WORKSHOPS
LINN COUNTY CREATIVE GARDENING SERIES
SUBMITTING YOUR NEWS

BUENA VISTA COUNTY PLANTS TO ATTRACT BIRDS AND BALD EAGLE
VIEWING

Activities will begin at 8:30AM. Those interested can meet in Linn Grove or at Highways 3 & 71 to be taken to an active Bald Eagles Nest in Buena Vista County. Programs will be Birds and Birding, Kay Neumann from SOAR who will have a Bald Eagle along with another Raptor. In addition, a program will be presented on what to plant to attract birds to your yard along with what to feed them.

When: Saturday, March 7, with a snow date of Saturday, March 14

Where: Initially at the intersection of Hwy. 3 and 71 or the Linn Grove Library between 8:30 AM and 9:30 AM and then in Linn Grove at 10:00AM at the American Legion Building and the Fire Station

For further information contact Marian McNabb at 712-296-4920 or by email Nature@Iowatelecom.net

BOONE COUNTY PROGRAM PASSION BETWEEN TWO RIVERS

It certainly is no secret to Iowan's that a passion for country living endows us in living here. This passion, while not unique but rather an emblematic love of place, finds no better outlet than in gardens. Kelly Norris has spent the last two years working on two books: the Iowa Gardener's Travel Guide and Planting Passions. The former was

released in November 2008 and the latter is forthcoming from a major publisher. Join Kelly on this story-rich tour of some of Iowa's most passion-inspired gardens and their creators. Kelly will have books available for purchase. Kelly D. Norris is a Master Gardener, freelance writer and speaker. For more information about Kelly, check out his website at <http://kellydnorris.com>.

When: Wednesday, March 11 at 7PM

Where: Boone County Hospital, 1017 Union Street, Boone 4th floor conference room

Cost: Free

For more information, contact:

Boone County ISU Extension at 515-432-3882
or email bcmg50036@gmail.com

IOWA ARBORETUM PRUNING WORKSHOP

The workshop will focus on pruning, a crucial step in tree care and one that many people ignore or abuse. We will demonstrate proper pruning techniques, provide an opportunity to practice, and answer questions. Bring a pruning saw if you have one. Dress appropriately for the weather.

When: Saturday, March 14 at 10:00AM

Where: Iowa Arboretum, located 2 miles west and 2 miles south of Luther in Boone County.

Cost: \$6.00 for Arboretum members and \$8.00 for non-members

For more information, contact:

Heather Bass by email heather.iowaarboretum@wildblue.net

2009 SIOUXLAND GARDEN SHOW

The Siouxland Garden Show will include educational exhibits, presentations, how-to sessions and commercial exhibitors. The event will offer how-to demonstrations and educational displays throughout the two-day event. Visitors to the Siouxland Garden Show will have access to all sessions, demonstrations and exhibits for one low admission price. There will be more kids' activities this year so

bring the family! The show is designed for anyone who has any interest in flowers, lawns, landscapes or gardens. Commercial exhibitors will showcase new and innovative products plus traditional items and services that make gardening and lawn care easier and more enjoyable. We are very pleased that our vendor spaces have been filled and all of our volunteers are lined up. Don't miss this event this year!

When: Friday, March 20 9AM - 8PM and Saturday, March 21 9AM - 6PM

Where: Marina Center in South Sioux City, Nebraska

Cost: \$5 for one day entrance, \$9 for two-day pass
Children 12 and under admitted free.
Price includes complete entrance to all features of the event including all speakers and information sessions.

For more information, contact:

Mimi Shanahan and Adrienne Jansen at 712-276-2157

or visit www.extension.iastate.edu/woodbury/news/gardenshow.htm

POLK COUNTY GET A JUMP ON SPRING WORKSHOPS

Shake off the winter blues and join other homeowners for an enjoyable and educational series of classes focusing on developing your yard/garden into the showplace of your dreams.

Classes will be taught by Master Gardeners and include vegetables, vertical gardening, water features-big and small, composts and composting. In the morning, Kathleen Delate, Associate Professor and Organic Specialist, will discuss the benefits of organic gardening and pest management and in the afternoon, Elvin McDonald, Director of Friends of the Des Moines Botanical Center, will share his all-time favorite topic houseplants indoors/outdoors. Both in the morning and afternoon, Lydia Brawner and Julie Catlin, Wright Outdoor Solutions, will discuss the principles to make gardens look professionally designed and top trends for landscaping in 2009; and Holly and Joel Gettys, Rain Barrels Iowa, will discuss the benefits of collecting rain water for use in the yard/garden. If you like to be more creative, sign up for our build a garden art project. Most classes will be offered both in the morning and afternoon.

When: Saturday, March 28, from 8:00AM 5:00PM

Where: The Polk County Extension office, located at 1625 Adventureland Dr., Ste A, Altoona, IA 50009.

Cost: Most classes are \$15.00 each. Call or email Virginia for class prices

For more information, contact:

Virginia Hunnell, Coordinator of Polk County Horticultural Education, at 515-957-5762 or email vhunnell@iastate.edu.

A registration form can be obtained at the Polk County Extension office or on the web site at

www.extension.iastate.edu/polk.info/mastergardener/mg.htm and click on Master Gardeners.

LINN COUNTY CREATIVE GARDENING SERIES

Bud LeFevre will present Plant It and It Will Grow! Basic Vegetable Gardening, which examines basic vegetable gardening techniques for the novice and the pro. Ideas range from those handed down through family generations to modern day organic practices. Emphasis is on tomato and pepper growing. LeFevre is co-owner and founder of Distinctive Gardens, Inc., a unique nursery carrying a variety of unusual and sought after woody plants, perennials and annuals, located in Dixon, IL. Bud has been vegetable gardening his whole life and working in the horticulture industry since he was thirteen.

When: Tuesday, March 31, 6:30 PM 8:30 PM

Where: Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Hall Room 234, 6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Cost: Free

For more information, contact:

Bev Lillie by email lillieb@iastate.edu or phone 319-377-9839

SUBMITTING YOUR NEWS

Master Gardener Update is published Friday by the Iowa Master Gardener Coordinator. Please send your news via email to James Romer (jromer@iastate.edu). Press releases received by Wednesday will be included in the next Update.

When submitting information for the MG Update, be sure to include who, what, when, where, why, cost (if applicable), a brief paragraph discussing the event and a contact for more information. Please review all information before submitting. For questions, call (515) 294-2336.

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.