



Story County  
**Master Gardener**  
Association

## **JUNE 2007 NEWSLETTER**

### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Well, June is half over. The garden walk was a success for the first outing. Tom reported over \$800 in deposits. We will have expenses against the gross, but the numbers were higher than expected. Now the push is on to complete the first adult education program, "Water, Weeds and Winged Things" in cooperation with Reiman Gardens on June 23.

A special thank you to Gretchen Triplett for organizing the first garden walk committee. Gretchen also provided fresh donuts to all the visitors at the 3103 Eisenhower tour stop. And a thank you is in order for the seven families who opened their yards and shared their talent and hard work with the community and the volunteers who worked hard to make this project a success.

I would like to recognize Jean McElherne for her years in the SCMGA; her commitment to many projects; and for her service on the board of directors. I certainly enjoyed Jean in the few short years we shared as master gardeners. Jean is now off to Las Vegas to start a new chapter in her life.

This months meeting is at the ISU research farm. Not only are Nick Howell and Cindy Haynes educating visitors, but they are also throwing in a strawberry and ice cream social as entertainment. I would encourage everyone to set their schedule to support their efforts as they are active and important supporters of SCMGA.

I'll meet you at the garden!

Craig

## SCMGA May 2006 Meeting Minutes

Mark Shour, ISU entomologist, presented a most interesting program on the Emerald Ash Borer. The EAB was officially identified in the U.S. in the summer of 2002 in Michigan. This destructive beetle is known to be responsible for the death or decline of more than 15 million ash trees in a 20-county area around Detroit. According to Shour, the beetle is now in Illinois but so far has not been detected in Iowa. Ash trees are prevalent in Iowa; nearly 60% of the trees in the Ankeny area are ash trees. Mr. Shour pointed out that humans unknowingly contribute to the spread of EAB when they move firewood and Iowa authorities are campaigning against the transporting of firewood. They are especially targeting campgrounds and anyone who is bringing in firewood from another state. For more information on this important topic, you can contact the ISU Extension Entomology Dept. at 294.1101, the IDNR @ 515.281.5918. Web sites include [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) or [mshour@iastate.edu](mailto:mshour@iastate.edu).

Following the program, refreshments, provided by Steve Barnhart, Tom Gust, and Connie Middleton, were enjoyed.

President Craig Seymour called the business meeting of the SCMGA to order.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as presented.

### **Treasurer's Report** - Tom Jordan

Checking	\$9,014.57
HiFi Savings	\$1,667.51
Subtotal	<u>\$10,682.08</u>
Scholarship Savings	\$3,743.10
Scholarship CD	0.00
Subtotal	<u>\$ 3,743.10</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,425.18</b>

Jordan reported that preliminary figures from the two SCMGA plant sales held May 5 and May 12 netted \$5,100. Jordan also suggested that we approve a budget for the Symposiums. Moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report.

### **Committee Reports**

**Plant Sale** – Successful sales were held at two locations. Better advertising of the sales was suggested, especially for the Nevada site.

**Tom Evans Garden** – Lisa Harmison reported that this garden has been planted but needs volunteers to help keep it watered.

**Farmers Markets** – Laura Miller passed a signup sheet and needs more volunteers to man the SCMGA tent at upcoming Farmers Markets. Joyce Krug and Toots Ostrich were at the May 19 Farmers Market at North Grand Mall and reported a positive experience at the market.

**Tribune Garden Page** – Craig Seymour reported that they need articles – you can email them to Seymour at [landcseymour@aol.com](mailto:landcseymour@aol.com).

**Scholarship** – Steve Barnhart reported they have two applications for scholarships and the committee will be meeting soon.

**Garden Walk** – Seymour reminded everyone that the garden walk “Garden Gems in June” will be June 9 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Six volunteers are still needed at the garden sites the day of the walk and also some volunteers are needed prior to the walk to help the garden sites get ready. Advertising in the form of a poster will be sent through email and Seymour is asking members to spread the word. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at any of the garden sites. There will be additional newspaper advertising prior to the 9<sup>th</sup> and Seymour is preparing a feature story for the Ames Tribune before the garden walk,

**Merchandise** – Toots Ostrich has ordered new MG t-shirts. They will be the same green shirt.

**Master Gardener Presents Symposium** – Pam Messer reported that the first symposium "**Water, Weeds and Winged Things**" will be June 23 at Reiman Gardens with registration at 8:30 a.m. and ending at noon. Speakers will include Craig Seymour, Lisa Harmison, and Dr. Donald Lewis. Cost for the Symposium will be \$15. Volunteers are needed and if you volunteer, you will enjoy free admittance.

**Water Garden Tour** - In an email from Jamie Beyer, the Water Garden Tour Committee has moved up the date of the tour to July 7, 2007. The committee also agreed to simplify many things. There will only be 8 gardens on the tour this year and it will be held one day instead of two days. The Des Moines segment of the tour will be next year (2008) and then back to the Ames area in 2009. The hours have also been shortened to 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on July 7.

## **Announcements**

Statewide Master Gardener Field Day will be held June 15, 2007 at the Neil Smith National Wildlife Refuge in Prairie City, IA. The program will include identifying plants in tall grass and savanna sites and also prairie plants in the wild and in the Iowa landscape. Jennifer Welch is the Urban Conservationist at the Neil Smith Refuge. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch and snacks.

Plant a Row for the Hungry Committee is requesting that we plant an extra row for the hungry this year. Produce will be collected at Reiman Gardens on Mondays. Volunteers are needed to pick up produce at downtown Farmers Markets.

Thank you note was read from Elizabeth Childs thanking our Association for supporting a portion of her internship at Reiman Gardens.

Next Meeting of the SCMGA is Monday, June 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the ISU Hort Farm. There will be tours of the farm led by Nick Howell, superintendent, and Dr. Cindy Haynes will talk to our group about the demonstration garden and this year's featured vegetables – "cole crops". Homemade ice cream and fresh strawberries will be a special treat provided by the Hort Farm staff. PLEASE BE SURE TO WEAR YOUR NAME TAG.

Please contact your SCMGA Board of Directors, if you have questions or concerns.



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