

Chautauqua 2012 Speakers

FIRST SESSION 9:45 – 10:30

Cutting & Arranging Garden Flowers

Karen Amunson owns Pocketful of Posies in New Hampton with 20 years of experience in the floral industry. If your sunflowers look like Van Gogh's, let her lead you through the care and arranging of flowers, floral preservatives, conditioning cut flowers and other information you will use when you cut flowers from your own garden this growing season.



Using Native Plants

Meredith Borchardt from Trees Forever will discuss the benefits of using native grasses, wildflowers, and trees in your landscaping project. She will provide examples of a variety of plantings and will discuss maintenance considerations. These low-maintenance plantings have a number of environmental benefits from reducing storm water runoff, to providing habitat for pollinators, to saving energy. If you're interested in establishing and maintaining native plants in your community, on your farm or at your residence and want to better understand how to maximize their benefits, come hear ideas and lessons learned from NE Iowa and across the state.



Totally Tomatoes

Totally Tomatoes by Nancy Morris: Receive valuable information to help you choose from the many types and varieties of tomatoes available. Learn about planting, mulching, and care of tomato plants to keep them healthy and productive in your garden.



SECOND SESSION

Woody Plants of Note

Rick Pleggenkuhle is the Ag & Hort Program Coordinator for Cerro Gordo County Extension with 16 years nursery experience. Every year brings new woody plant introductions. Some are good, others...not so much. Recently, hydrangeas and lilacs have been getting a lot of attention with Bloomerang™ lilacs and First Editions® hydrangeas. Rick will give an unbiased assessment on dozens of the latest tree and shrub introductions.



Make a Tussie-Mussie

Sue Kuennen Massman is an Iowa Master Gardener with a flair for crafts. She will talk about the lore of tussie-mussies and the language of flowers. She will also talk about growing and preserving everlasting flowers in your garden. Many garden flowers can be air-dried with little fuss, if you select the right varieties. You'll also be making a tussie-mussie to take home.



Container Veggies

Deb has been a Master Gardener in Linn County since 1995. You may hear her on WMT 600 on Wednesdays from 9-10am. She has six raised garden beds in Cedar Rapids. But you don't need a lot of space to grow vegetables. Many of our favorite garden plants can be grown in containers on the patio! Start the spring with some lettuce and spinach, switch it out to tomatoes in summer and get double rewards. Deb will get you started.



Blueberries in Iowa

The first time she was sent in to her grandmother's gardens to pick raspberries, eating more than she brought back, Deb Walser was hooked. Gardening was for her. And while raspberries are still a garden staple, they're even better with home-grown blueberries. With the right soil prep and variety (and rabbit fencing), you'll be picking them in just a few years.



Succulents

Josh Spece owns In the Country Garden & Gifts near Independence. While you may have heard Josh talk about hostas or water gardens, succulent plants like hen & chicks or sedum are also one of his specialties! These plants thrive in the hot sun and will survive drought conditions that would fry most annuals. Find out more about these easy, colorful, and architectural plants.



Myth Busters

Anita Weis is an ISU graduate in horticulture who owns Ladybug Landscapes in Decorah with her husband Al. She will talk about garden myths – those things that have been passed on for years -and we assume they're true. Like: "a layer of gravel in the bottom of the pot will improve drainage". It won't. Anita will explain this and more.



Succulent Wreath

Bob purchased his first succulent wreath frame and coir liner for about \$35 without plants or even soil! For several years, he tried several home-made models with small success until he came up with the solution. It can be hung or laid flat and will even survive outdoors through the winter! Make the frame for under \$10. Find out how.



Mini-Hostas

Miniature and small hostas are extremely popular right now. Not only are they cute, but they are very practical for small gardens. Josh Spece will explore the big world of little hostas, share how to care for them properly, and discuss the many different miniature and small hostas available. You'll also see many inspiring and fun ideas to display and arrange little hostas in the garden.



Cool Season Gardening

Ann Bushman started Annie's Gardens and Greens as a sideline for a stay-at-home mom that has grown into a year-round business. Many gardeners start to garden around the frost-free date and miss some of the best weather for peas, radishes, onions and more. And there's the fall garden too! Frost doesn't mean the end of the garden. Don't make the garden bigger – make the season last longer!

