



BUCHANAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

OFFSHOOTS

Education Blooms During the 12th Annual Master Gardener Symposium

INDEPENDENCE, Iowa – Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach Master Gardeners hosted their 12th annual gardening symposium on Saturday, February 24. With both returning friends and new faces in attendance, all came hoping to learn and plan for spring.

Speakers for the event brought their own knowledge and expertise to the topics they presented. The topics were chosen by the Master Gardener Symposium Committee, and the main sessions included:

Marilynn Cech and Elizabeth Burke, Wisconsin Master Gardeners and Award Winners at the 2017 International Master Gardener Search for Excellence Contest, presented *Gardening Through Life*, which focused on protecting joints and finding ways to adapt gardening as we age; Rose Mildren, Linn County Master Gardener, presented *Houseplants* and utilized NASA's recommended plant list; Dan Potter, owner and operator at Great River Maple, presented *From Sunshine to Syrup* and talked about the history of the business and about being Iowa's only producer of organic maple syrup and maple cream; and Dr. Donald Lewis, entomologist with Iowa State University, presented *Japanese Beetles and Other Significant Garden Pests*, shared information about the insect trends and management options for those unwanted garden invaders. For the breakout sessions: Marilynn Cech and Elizabeth Burke presented *Back Protection While Gardening*; Deb Walsler, Linn County Master Gardener, presented *Plant Propagation and Seed Starting*; Dan Potter presented "But Wait- There's More!", which gave participants samples of the many items that Great River Maple makes; Dr. Donald Lewis presented *Plants, Pollinators and People*, and Mary Steuben, retired educator with Jesup Community Schools, led *Terrariums* (a hands-on session).



Guests brows a variety of silent auction items during a break at the Master Gardener Symposium.



Scott Jans vendor from Etched Memories, sells one of his hand-painted pieces.

The day featured a delicious breakfast and lunch, an excellent variety of silent auction items, and an impressive variety of local vendors offering one-of-a-kind items from which to browse and purchase. Vendors included; Lost Loon Studio, In the Country Garden and Gifts, Etched Memories, and Great River Maple. We are always pleased that local artisans join us to display their wares to an audience of gardening-focused individuals; this is a perfect pairing for our educational event!

The Buchanan County Master Gardeners would like to thank our donors, speakers, partners, First Presbyterian Church of Independence (our host site), and our many hard-working, dedicated volunteers. The Symposium committee consists of Nancy Weber, Denise Hawker, Kim Hansen, Shelley Schafer, Mary Davis, Cindy Walton, Hazel Kout, JoAnn Crain, Sue Schneider, Shelly Ohrt, Jean Gillpatrick, Becky Sweeney, who work many long hours to make each year's event a shining success! The annual symposium would not be possible without the support extended from our communities. Thank you all for making our 12th annual symposium one of the best yet!

If you would be interested in more information about our speakers, sessions or vendors, or would like to attend in the future, or would like more information about the upcoming Master Gardener training (scheduled to start in September 2018), contact Ashley Sherrets, Ag/Hort Program Coordinator at 319-334-7161 or sherrets@iastate.edu.



Dr. Donald Lewis shares his knowledge of the life cycle and immense affect Japanese Beetles can have on yards and gardens.

March 2018
Issue 3

E-V-E-N-T-S

Project Meeting

March 20, 2018
7:00

Succulents presented
by JoAnne Van Cleave

Heartland Acres
Theater

2600 Swan Lake
Blvd, Independence

Open to all Master Gardeners

Submit articles to
rbrandt@wildblue.net by the
1st Wednesday of the
month.

Buchanan County ISU
Extension and Outreach
2600 Swan Lake Boulevard,
Suite A
Independence IA 50644

Phone: (319) 334-7161

Fax: (319) 334-6641

E-mail:

xbuchanan@iastate.edu

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

January 16th

**Great Spaces @ Heartland Acres
Business Meeting**

Review plans for Symposium
Sign up for committees

Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

February 20th

No Project Meeting
Don't forget the Symposium
February 24th
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

March 20th

Heartland Acres Theater
Project Meeting 7:00
Succulents presented by
Joanne Van Cleave

Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

April 17th

St. James Episcopal Church
202 2nd Ave NE, Independence
Project Meeting 7:00
To Be Announced

Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

May 15th

**Great Spaces @ Heartland Acres
Plant Exchange 6:00
Business Meeting**

Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

June 19th

St. James Episcopal Church
202 2nd Ave NE, Independence
Project Meeting 7:00
To Be Announced

Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

Master Gardener Calendar

Volunteer Opportunity

We are searching for a home garden judge to help with the Buchanan County 4-H Program. The dates are Tuesday, June 19th and Wednesday, June 20th. Judges will be asked to judge 4-H gardens (vegetable or flower), and then pick a winner based on the provided rubric. Our County Youth Coordinator, Erica, is in search of someone to help. Meals will be provided, and the volunteer will be chauffeured to the sites by our Summer Assistant. Please respond to Ashley if you are able to assist!

Note: Master Gardeners have volunteered to fill this judging position for many years, and this is an excellent opportunity to share your knowledge while supporting our youth. All hours will count toward annual volunteer requirements.

Call Ashley, (319) 334-7161, if you have any questions, and thank you for working so hard on everything!

Site addresses verified August 11, 2017

Many articles are now indexed in the Yard & Garden FAQs Database

<<https://expert-hort.sws.iastate.edu/>>

Current Yard & Garden and Horticulture & Home Pest News articles

<<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/>>

Reiman's Pick (No archives - now published as one of four blogs. Others are Nathan's Notes, Plant Particulars, and Intern's Perspective)

<<http://www.reimangardens.com/education-ideas/blogs/>>

Gardening Publications from ISU Extension

Available from the ISU Extension Online Store:

<<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/ProductArea?TopicID=10>>

Many of these publications are free to download.

All links in this newsletter were verified and working March 12, 2018.

July 5-9

Buchanan County Fair
Join us in the
Master Gardener booth in
the Garden Gate Building

August 21st

**Great Spaces @ Heartland Acres
Business Meeting**

Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

September 18th

St. James Episcopal Church
202 2nd Ave NE, Independence
Project Meeting 7:00
To Be Announced

Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

October 16th

**Great Spaces @ Heartland Acres
Business Meeting
Elections**

Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

November 20th

St. James Episcopal Church
202 2nd Ave NE, Independence
Project Meeting 7:00
To Be Announced

Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

December

No Regular Meeting—Happy Holidays
Be sure to log your volunteer and
education hours on the online Volunteer
Reporting System by 11:59 p.m.,
December 31st. See you in 2019

Dividing Perennials

by Richard Jauron, Willy Klein, Department of Horticulture (released February 1, 2018)— complete article may be found at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/yard-and-garden-dividing-perennials>

Herbaceous perennials are commonly divided for three reasons: to control size, to rejuvenate plants and to propagate a prized perennial. Vigorous perennials may grow so rapidly that they crowd out neighboring plants in the flower bed. Other perennials decline in vigor if not divided at the appropriate time. One of the easiest ways to propagate a prized perennial is to divide the plant into two or more smaller plants. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulturists offer tips on dividing perennials. For more information, contact the ISU Hortline at 515-294-3108 or hortline@iastate.edu.



Do I need to divide the perennials in my garden?

Some perennials, such as garden peonies, can be left undisturbed for 50 or more years. Others need to be divided periodically to contain their spread or to rejuvenate declining plants. Perennials, such as gooseneck loosestrife (*Lysimachia clethroides*), obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*), and bee balm (*Monarda didyma*) are vigorous growers. They grow so rapidly that they begin to crowd out neighboring plants within a few years. Gooseneck loosestrife and other vigorous growers should be divided every two to three years. After dividing the perennials, replant some of the divisions, give others to relatives or neighbors, and discard remaining plants in the compost pile. In contrast, the performance of some perennials, such as bearded iris (*Iris* hybrids), begins to decline after several years. If not divided every three to five years, bearded irises become overcrowded and don't bloom well. Declining perennials should be divided to rejuvenate the plants.

Which perennials can be divided in spring?

The best time to divide perennials varies with the different plant species. Early spring (just as new growth begins to appear) is the best time to divide aster, chrysanthemum, hosta, bee balm, sedum, yarrow, obedient plant, perennial salvia, purple coneflower, and ornamental grasses. Other perennials that can be divided in spring include coreopsis, daylily, garden phlox, speedwell, and hardy zinnia.

In early spring, dig up the perennials just as new growth begins to appear. Divide each plant clump into sections with a sharp knife. Each division should contain several shoots and a portion of the root system. Immediately replant the divisions. Keep the newly divided perennials well-watered through spring and summer. Most newly divided perennials don't bloom well until their second growing season.

How often can I divide perennials?

Many gardeners like to divide perennials to produce additional plants for themselves or to give to others. The frequency of division depends on the species of plant. Most fast growing perennials, such as aster, bee balm, chrysanthemum, coreopsis, daylily and garden phlox, can be divided every two to three years. Slower maturing perennials, such as hosta and peony, can be divided every three to five years.

Which perennials don't like to be divided?

While most perennials are easy to divide, a few perennials are difficult to divide because of deep taproots or extensive root systems. These perennials prefer to be left undisturbed. Perennials that don't tolerate division well include monkshood (*Aconitum* spp.), columbine (*Aquilegia* hybrids), goat's beard (*Aruncus dioicus*), swamp (rose) milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), false blue indigo (*Baptisia australis*), gas plant (*Dictamnus albus*), baby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*), balloon flower (*Platycodon grandiflorus*), and Carolina lupine (*Thermopsis villosa*).

About the Author: Richard Jauron, Extension Horticulturist, 515-294-3108, rjauron@iastate.edu

Willy Klein, Organizational Advancement, 515-294-0662, wklein@iastate.edu

Horticulture & Home Pest News <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/> is published 19 times a year (monthly, October through February and biweekly during gardening season, March through September).

Articles in the February 9, 2018, issue include Train Yourself to Observe Tree Problems / Planting Broccoli, Cabbage, and Cauliflower in the Home Garden / Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Update / Dividing Perennials / Propagating Houseplants

Yard and Garden News

Articles are published one to four times a month on an irregular schedule. They may be found at
<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/aggregator/sources/1>

These are the articles listed since December 13, 2017:

- 3/8/18 Dividing Perennials
- 2/28/18 Growing Cabbage in Home Gardens
- 2/21/18 Propagating Houseplants
- 2/14/18 Select Cold Hardy Fruit Tree Cultivars
- 2/13/18 Fruit Tree Workshops Offer Hands-on Apple Tree Grafting
- 2/13/18 High Tunnel Workshops to Explore and Address Common Challenges
- 2/13/18 Growing Together Mini-Grants Awarded to 26 Iowa Counties
- 2/8/18 Forcing Blooms Indoors
- 2/6/18 Morel Mushroom Certification Available through Workshop
- 2/1/18 All about Raspberries
- 2/1/18 Master Gardener Impact Felt across Iowa
- 1/25/18 Getting Tuberous Begonias Started Indoors
- 1/18/18 All about Milkweed
- 1/12/18 Master Gardeners Offer Three Winter Webcasts
- 1/10/18 Get a Start on Geraniums for Summer
- 1/4/18 Acreage Management Improved through Small Farms Conference
- 1/3/18 Winter Care for Houseplants



2018 Master Gardener Officers and Committee Lists

Steering Committee Officers, 2018

Gean Cummings, Chair
 Shelley Schafer, Vice Chair
 Jean Gillpatrick, Secretary
 Nancy Weber, Treasurer

2019 Symposium Committee

Cindy Walton
 Mary Steuben
 Ruth Schneider
 Ruth Hamilton
 Mary Davis
 Lynda Fiester
 Nancy Weber
 Kim Hansen
 JoAnn Crain

Cedar Rock-'Agnes Mathilda' gardens

Rita Knutson
 Jean Gillpatrick
 JoAnn Crain

Wapsipicon Mill gardens (prairie and south/front garden)

Leanne Harrison

Offshoots newsletter - articles/ interviews

Ruth Brandt
 Mary Davis

Farmers market booth and educational programs

Cindy Walton
 Becky Sweeney
 Mary Steuben
 Ruth Schneider
 Ruth Hamilton
 Gean Cummings
 Lynda Fiester

ABCM West Village

Jean Gillpatrick
 Rosalind Gibbs

Educational gardening programs/public speaking opportunities

Nancy Weber

Project meetings (monthly at

St. James Episcopal)

JoAnne Van Cleave
 Jean Gillpatrick
 Lynda Fiester

Design a Scarecrow contest

Mary Lou Weepie
 Mary Davis
 Gean Cummings
 Lynda Fiester
 Nancy Weber
 Ashley Sherrets

Rowley Community Center/ Welcome Sign & Kenny

Nielsen Park

Rita Knutson
 JoAnn Crain

Master Gardener Booth - fair

Sue Schneider
 Becky Sweeney
 Rita Knutson
 Ruth Hamilton
 Mary Davis
 JoAnne Van Cleave
 Jean Gillpatrick
 Hazel Kout

April 7th - Storytime with

Dan Wardell

Sue Schneider
 Becky Sweeney
 Rita Knutson
 Mary Lou Weepie
 Mary Davis
 Gean Cummings
 Lynda Fiester
 Nancy Weber

Independence Library

Butterfly Garden

Sue Schneider
 Jean Gillpatrick

Hazleton City Park/Hazleton

Veteran's Park/Main Street

Planters/Trails/Skateboard

Park

Mary Davis
 Ginny Schmitz
 JoAnne Van Cleave
 Hazel Kout

Flower & Garden Show- fair

Becky Sweeney
 Ruth Schneider
 Mary Steuben
 Ruth Hamilton
 Cindy Walton
 Mary Davis
 JoAnne Van Cleave
 Mary Lou Weepie
 Jean Gillpatrick
 Lynda Fiester
 Hazel Kout

Lee Mansion Gardens

Shelley Schafer
 Nancy Weber
 Rita Knutson
 Hazel Kout
 Leanne Harrison
 JoAnn Crain
 Kim Hansen

Independence Library (planters & statue)

Ashley Sherrets

Jakway Heirloom Gardens

Mary Davis
 Ginny Schmitz

Hospice Garden

Rita Knutson
 Ginny Schmitz
 Mary Lou Weepie
 Shelley Schafer
 Kim Hansen

First Presbyterian Sharing Gardens

Ruth Hamilton

Hortline

Sue Schneider

Pioneer Prairie Schoolhouse Garden

Mary Steuben- chairperson
 Ruth Schneider
 Ruth Hamilton
 Nancy Weber

Buchanan County Veteran's Garden at Buchanan County Courthouse

Gean Cummings
 Lynda Fiester
 Nancy Weber
 Ashley Sherrets

Holiday Workshops/Programs

Sue Schneider

Master Gardener Scrapbook/Photographer

Sue Schneider

First United Methodist Church- Jesup

Mary Steuben

STEMfest

Gean Cummings

Animal Shelter

Enter Volunteer and Education Hours at: <https://mastergardenerhours.hort.iastate.edu>

If you want to work with any of these projects, please contact Ashley Sherrets, Master Gardener Coordinator, 319.334.7161, or sherrets@iastate.edu.

Mission Statement



The mission of the Iowa State University Extension Master Gardener Program is to provide current, research-based, home horticulture information and education to the citizens of Iowa through programs and projects. Through their participation in educational activities, Master Gardeners also increase their own personal knowledge in horticulture. Master Gardeners extend Iowa State University Extension's consumer horticulture education programs through volunteer activity.

Buchanan County ISU Extension & Outreach

2600 Swan Lake Boulevard, Suite A
Independence, IA 50644

"Newspaper headline: Dog attacks topiary cat."
from <<http://www.gardendigest.com/humor.htm>>