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 Milden, 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 Walser, 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).

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.

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.
Buchanan County Master Gardener Project Meeting March 20, 2018

Information on succulents will be presented by JoAnne Van Cleave at the Buchanan County Master Gardener meeting March 20th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Heartland Acres Theater at 2600 Swan Lake Blvd, Independence.

Meetings are open to all Master Gardeners and the general public.

Master Gardener Continuing Education Opportunities

Master Gardener 2018 Winter Webinar Series
Mar. 29, 2018, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Free
Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach, 2600 Swan Lake Blvd, Independence
March 29 - Food Security Partners

Mondays in March - Delaware County Master Gardeners
Mar. 19, 26, 2018, 7:00 p.m. Cost: $2 donation
Our Savior Lutheran Church, 116 Guetzko Court, Manchester.
March 19 - Growing Strawberries & Raspberries Using Modern Production Practices
March 26 - Native Plants for the Gardener: Sustainable Choices for Iowans

Free Gardening Classes - Hawkins Memorial Library, LaPorte City
April 4, 25, 2018, 6:30 p.m. Free
April 4 - Rise & Shine: Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring
April 25 - The Top 10 Mistakes Gardeners Make

Free Gardening Classes - April 9 - May 14 - at Waterloo and Cedar Falls Public Libraries
Tomato/Tomahto - Growing Great Tomatoes
Jan Jefferson - Jefferson Greenhouse
April 9 - Waterloo Public Library 7 p.m.
April 11 - Cedar Falls Public Library 7 p.m.

How to Create the Prettiest! Containers! Ever!
Linda Manske - Corner Market & Greenhouse
April 16 - WPL 7 p.m.

Growing Big Things in Small Gardens - Square Foot Gardening Basics
Sheila Sartorius - ISU Extension & Greenhouse Manager
April 18 - CFPL 7 p.m.

Black Gold: Tips for Making our Own Compost
Pat Highy - Energy Education and Outreach Coordinator, UNI
April 28 - WPL 10-11:30 a.m.
April 28 - CFPL 1 p.m.

Additional Educational Events Can Be Found at: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/events
Currently events are listed through September 30, 2018

What's New in the Garden for 2018
Heidi Tietz-DeSilva - Petersen and Tietz Greenhouse
May 1 - WPL 7 p.m.
May 7 - CFPL 7 p.m.

Gardening with Kids - Bring the Whole Family
Emily Samuelson - FoodCorps from ISU Extension
May 5 - WPL 10-11:30 a.m.
May 5 - CFPL 1-3 p.m.

Planning & Planting for Perfect Preservation
Jill Weber - ISU Extension
May 8 - CFPL 7 p.m.
May 14 - WPL 7 p.m.

Cedar Falls Public Library, 524 Main St, Cedar Falls, IA, phone (319) 273-8643

Waterloo Public Library, 415 Commercial St, Waterloo, IA, phone (319) 291-4476

For more information contact: Steven Eilers, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Black Hawk County Urban Agriculture Specialist, 319-234-6811, seilers@iastate.edu

Upper Midwest Regional Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Conference
Theme: Our Plants, Our Planet, Our Volunteers
June 13-16, 2018, at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, MN

Keynote Speaker Tom Smarr is Horticulture and Natural Areas Director at 21st Century Parks, Inc. in Louisville, KY.

Tom speaks widely on the importance of modern parks in urban society along with current horticulture design trends with plants and ecologically sustainable practices. He is committed to the preservation of our cultural landscapes through sensible design, horticulture practices, and public education.
Master Gardener Calendar

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

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

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.

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.
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 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).

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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
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
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

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.

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