Notes from Kay, our Chairman

Well as of this writing we are gearing up for the 4th of July parade and getting ready for Master Gardener Day at the Clinton County Fair. The weather outside is extremely hot and dry. My gardens are liking the warm, but not so much the lack of rain. The early Spring has most of the flowers already bloomed and spent. Will be interesting to see how the rest of the summer unfolds.

In the last Newsletter there was a very nice piece added about new Interns and their help, it was credited to me as a writing, but sorry to say, it didn’t come from me. So, whomever was so kind as to send that to Carol, thank you, I think everyone’s efforts need to be recognized, but as an Intern, it seems to be more important.

June 16th Clinton County Conservation started the summer program Enviro-Kids with 28 children showing up at the Soaring Eagles Nature Barn. They were treated to a program including a talk on native plants, a hike to the dog park, planting native plants in the gardens at the dog park, planting a pot with purple Hyacinth seeds to take home, and S’mores. A good time was had by all. It was good to give children a chance to see some things of nature and they loved being able to plant the gardens.

The new trees at the OLC have been planted, and the gardens are looking really great. We are getting ready to show them at the Master Gardener Day at the Clinton County Fair. This day is for US! It is set aside to recognize the things we do not only at the Fairgrounds, but also the many other volunteer opportunities in our County. Each Master Gardener will be given lunch tickets for themselves and a guest at the lunch stand. We will be sponsoring again, the Container Contest, and there will be demonstrations starting with the tree dedication at 9:30. Come out and join us!!!

Look further in the Newsletter for volunteer opportunities, we are about half way through the year, and more than halfway through the gardening year. If you need to get hours, whether a seasoned Master Gardener or an Intern, be looking ahead and get them completed.

Until next time, hope all your gardens are growing and you have good health!!!
CLINTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ADVISORY BOARD

June 19, 2012—Bickelhaupt Arboretum

Roll Call: Kay, Roger, Alice, Brenda, Willard, Karen (Int)  Guest—Mark, Margo, Carol M.

Approval of Agenda: Approved 1st Willard 2nd Alice

Approval of Minutes: Approved 1st Willard 2nd Roger

Financial Report: Balance of $5490.28 Balanced approved 1st Brenda 2nd Alice

Reports: Committees/projects/events

OLC: Roger—New trees planted, cost of trees Beech $255.00 Autumn Blaze $202.50. Everything well cared for. Donation of $125.00 from Cindy Shelly on Behalf of Creative Arts to put toward tree purchase. Lots of Tractorcade people walked through OLC and lots of good comments.

Education: Deb Monroe—Few recipe books & bags left over, could be used at fair for handouts. Also may be good to give to future MG students.

Plant Partners: Willard—2-3 call per week at Ext Office. Plus a few sent in items.


Publicity: Kay—Still no-one found to take on as continuing project. Have had good coverage in local papers and from Margo on her radio spot. Might be good idea to have publicity covered by person in charge of event.

Newsletter: Carol Macachel—Newsletter goes to Ext office on 1st Monday of month publication. Things have to be sent to Carol in Word format, so it is easier for her to adjust and make fit in space allowed. Carol needs pictures of Garden Walk, new OLC trees, EnviroKids, to publish. Carol tries to put any volunteer opportunities that come up in special section, so MG & Interns know what is out there to get their hours in.

Garden Walk: Kathy Sander—A few Fair Board members attended the Garden Walk in the OLC and commented about how happy they were with this MG project, and commented that it was definitely a “Job Well Done” by those involved.

Plant Sale: Brenda Council/DeWitt—Together both sales grossed $2689.00. The tent was much appreciated at the Lyons sale. Everyone did an excellent job with the plants and helping out. “Thank you” notes were received from both the Jefferson School in Clinton and the Paws for Cause in DeWitt for the donation of unsold plants.

10 Year OLC/100 Year Extension Anniversaries—Interns have this garden project looking really nice. Memorial Stone for 100 yr. anniversary will be added to this garden.

Old Business:

MG Day at the Fair—Cynthia Haynes will be filling in for Jennifer Bousselot as the new MG Coordinator and will be on hand MG Day. A booth will be set up with information about Iowa State Extension and what they do. 4 speakers are scheduled to give talks and/or demonstrations after the tree dedication at 9:30AM. People are still needed to help with the Container Contest. Rules and information to enter the contest are available at the Ext. Office and the Arb.

New name tags: Willard—If anyone has not picked up your new name tag, please check at the Ext. Office or the Arb. To see if they are at one of these places. Call the Extension Office if no name tag was issued to you.

Community Garden: Willard—30+ plots have been rented. The gardens are all looking really well maintained.

New Business:

Gift Basket for Clinton Club Show—Motion made by Willard to donate $50.00 to go toward 2-$25.00 gift baskets Brenda 2nd.
Gift Basket for Clinton Club Show - Motion made by Willard to donate $50.00 to go toward 2-$25.00 gift baskets Brenda 2nd.

Other - Alice Machande - people are trying to save the 4th of July Parade in Clinton and she was wondering if maybe the MG's would be interested in a float or some type of representation to be in the parade. Would send out e-mail's to see if some one would like to take on this idea.

Willard suggested we reserve our spot for the Christmas Party. Suggestions were made about possibly changing the spot, but Buzzy's seems to be centrally located for everyone and have a good meal. Social Committee will look into further.

For the good of the cause:

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Council, Secretary

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Master Gardeners Are Invited

Wednesday, July 18

Third Annual Master Gardener Day at the Clinton County Fair

Relax, Enjoy, Learn Bring family and friends

Free Gate Admission

Two Complimentary Lunch Tickets per Master Gardener

Lunch Stand available for others 9:00 to 12:00

Enter the "Vegetable Contest." You may win a ribbon.

Enter the "Outdoor Container Contest," Win a (small) cash prize

Full contest information is available on the fair web site clintoncountyio-wafair.com/countyfair.html or at the Extension Office

9:30 to 10:00 Dedication of ISU 100 Year commemorative tree

Recognition of Outdoor Living Classroom 10 year Anniversary

10:00 "Heirloom Gardening"

11:00 to 1:00 Lunch While Listening and Learning

11:00 "Designing a Miniature Garden" by Linda Cornelius

12:00 "Trash to Treasure" yard art by Kay Bates

1:00 "Mushrooms" by Mitch Gravert

2:00 by Container Judges

Awarding of prizes. Critique of Containers
2012 Bickelhaupt Arboretum Calendar
Dates subject to change.

June 12  Arts at the Arb: 7pm. “Travis Hosette Sings Sinatra.” Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the outdoor performance. (Rain date June 14th)

July 10  Arts at the Arb: 7 pm. String Quartrio. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the outdoor concert performance. (Rain date July 12th)

July 28  Saturday at the Arb: 10 to 11 am. Herb Wreath. Make and take your own fresh herb wreath. Alice M /MG  Pre-registration required

To register for classes or trips please call the arboretum at 563-242-4771

Our Communities Ask Us for Help!

The following are volunteer opportunities that can be counted as volunteer hours.

1. West Wing in DeWitt requested a Master Gardener to talk with the residents about plant care and to help pot plants that could be kept in their rooms. Thanks to the Clinton County MGs, residents of the West Wing are enjoying a taste of Mother Nature. On June 23, a dozen low-maintenance potted plants in colorful containers were delivered to West Wing and received with much enthusiasm amid many oohs and aahs. Thanks to Virginia Templeton for coordinating the project, Margo Hansen for donating the plants, and Karen Bradway for potting and delivery.

2. Clinton Public Library is still looking for a Master Gardener to help put some color outside the library. They would like someone to help them in their choice of containers and plants that would be used outside in the area. Getting the containers planted and advising the care needed would also be part of the project. Please contact Amy Birtell at 563-242-8441.

3. Soaring Eagles Nature Center is looking for someone to help with their butterfly garden. Call or e-mail Kay of you can help!

Help needed at the Clinton County Fair !!!

Hosts for the OLC during the Fair are needed;
Help at Master Gardener Day with the Container Contest, Presentation Helpers, and just all around help with the festivities.

Time spent can be used for volunteer hours. Please help us to make this day a success. Please contact Kay Bates, Roger Rittmer, or Willard Larsen if you can help.

MASTER GARDENERS SAY “YES!” VOLUNTEER !!!!

Extension Office Landscaping: Willard Larsen willardllarsen@gmail.com 563-249-2476
Eagle Point Nursing Home and Rehabilitation or Community Garden: Willard Larsen
OLC/County Fair: Roger Rittmer rogr@iowatelecom.net
Bickelhaupt Arboretum: Margo Hansen dir-programs@bick-arb.org
Curtis Mansion: Liz Clements 563-243-3254
Helping at the OLC during the Fair? Here’s what to do!

1. Watch for who is in the garden. People that stop to look at plants often have questions, approach them and ask if you can answer any questions. If you don’t know the answers tell them so and offer to see if who ever is working with you knows. If they don’t know then offer to find out the answer for tomorrow.

2. Bring along your pruning shears and do a little deadheading and trimming of the plants. Weeding is another option when traffic is slow.

3. There will be information sheets and brochures to give out to people that seem interested and a signup sheet for people that are interested in information about becoming a Master Gardener.

4. Visiting with your working companion is great, but never neglect the visitors to the OLC. One of the major objectives of Master Gardeners is to educate the public.

5. The most important thing to do is to be friendly and interested in the OLC, Master Gardeners, and the people that are visiting.

Call Roger, Willard or Kay if you can help for an hour or 3!!!
June 16th was the day….Clinton County Conservation started the summer program Enviro-Kids. It is a program designed for children grades 3-5 to get out and see things that affect our environment and to see things of nature. The first day was spent with Chuck and Melissa Jacobsen from the Nature Barn, and Stan and Kay Bates from Master Gardeners. The children were first told a little about some of the native plants in the area and then went on a hike to see the plants as they grew in nature. Ending at the dog park at Eagle Point Park, they were then given plants and were able to plant a couple gardens in the park. Of course, Melissa had rocks with the plant names on them, so they were able to mark the plants after carefully putting them in the ground. Then a hike back and they were greeted with S’mores. Before going home, each child was given a pot to decorate and were able to plant seeds in the pot to take home. We had 28 children and about 6 parents that spent the three hour time with us. Was a great opportunity to spark a little “green thumb” in each child.
OUTDOOR CONTAINER CONTEST

Clinton County Fair Wednesday July 18

Free Admission—Large Tent near Outdoor Living Classroom

Share Your Outdoor Container Creativity

Classes Include:

Most Colorful
Best Use of Edibles
Most Unusual Container
Outstanding Use of Foliage
Best Design
Kids Class (12 and under)

Cash Prizes In each class as follows: First - $25.00 Second - $10.00
Third - $5.00 Best of Show Award $25.00

For complete information and rules:

Clinton County Fair Book http://www.clintoncountyiowafair.com/

Iowa State Extension Office 400 East 11th Avenue DeWitt, 52742 563-659-5125

Contest is open to all rural and urban exhibitors of Clinton County.

Dubuque Tour of Gardens, Sunday, July 8th
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

There will be six spectacular gardens featured in the tour this year: An Enchanting Experience, Three Season Garden, Indiana Gardens, English Cottage Gardens, Gardens on the Bluff, and An Old Couple's Paradise.

Tickets are $10 and are available at each garden the day of the tour. Event held rain or shine.

1. Kay and Carl Hartung – 11206 Lakeview Drive, Dubuque "An Enchanting Experience"
2. Nancy and Roger Leibfried – 3310 Arrowwood Lane, Dubuque – “Three Season Garden”
3. Dianne and Steve Pins – 2898 Indiana Avenue, Dubuque – “Indiana Gardens”
4. Randy Dolter – 1295 South Grandview Avenue, Dubuque- “English Cottage Gardens"
5. Barbara and Dave Leifker, 1000 Whispering Lane, Hazel Green, Wi. – “Gardens on the Bluff”
6. Geri and Joe Timmerman, 530 West Main Street, Dickeyville, Wi. – "An Old Couple's Paradise

Questions? Jeanne Ambrosy (563) 583-9008 or cell (563) 599-2551 /Lou Ann Arensdorf (563) 582-1510 or cell (563) 599-4233
Be On the Lookout for Impatiens Downy Mildew

From ISU Extension, Horticulture and Home Pest News, June 2012

Have you checked you impatiens lately? If your plants appear stunted, yellowing, or have just a couple of leaves left, you might want to consider sending us a sample.

Impatiens downy mildew is a relatively new disease that wreaked havoc in homeowner gardens and greenhouses in 2011. This disease is yet to be confirmed in Iowa but it has already been reported in several states throughout 2012.

Symptoms of impatiens downy mildew include pale or yellowing leaves that may initially be confused with a nutritional deficiency. As infection progresses, leaves may start to curl and a white fuzzy growth can be seen on leaf undersides. Severe infections often lead to early defoliation and blossom drop, leaving bare stems behind.

Downy mildew is caused by a fungus-like organism called *Plamospora obducens*. This pathogen thrives under cool and wet weather conditions, especially if nighttime temperatures drop to 50-72 degrees F. Downy mildew can spread through rain splash, overhead irrigation, and wind. It also produces a type of spore (called oospore) that can remain inside infected plant material for several years.

Although current weather conditions have not been ideal for infection, it’s not a bad idea to glance at your impatiens every once in a while, especially if you had impatiens in your garden last year. If you suspect downy mildew on your impatiens or find fuzzy growth on leaf undersides, bag and remove the plants immediately. To reduce the risk of infection, avoid overcrowding and promote air circulation among plants. Also, avoid overhead irrigation and watering at night.