

Germinator



Vol. 29, No. 4 Editors: Julie Stark/Lisa Slattery

April 2019

LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EVENTS

Steering Committee Meeting

Extension Office
April 2 • 6:30 pm

Extension Council Meeting

Extension Office
April 8 • 5:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting

Extension Office
April 22 • 3:00 pm

Creative Gardening Series

Cedar Rapids Public Library
April 16, 23 & 30 • 6:30 pm

LCMG Awards Banquet

The Flamingo Restaurant
1211 Ellis Blvd. NW
April 9
6:00 pm Social/6:30 pm Dinner
RSVP's due—April 1

Noelridge Easter Showcase

Noelridge Greenhouse
April 20 & 21 • 11 am-5 pm

April Library Talks

6:30-7:30 pm
Coggon Library
April 3, 10, 17 & 24
Ely Library
April 4, 11, 18 & 25
Central City Library
April 4, 11, 18 & 25
Fairfax Library
April 4, 11, 18 & 25

Creative Gardening Series

By Linda Hinzman and Kathy Hughes

The Creative Gardening Series will be held at the Cedar Rapids Public Library (downtown) in the Whipple Auditorium. All presentations begin at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public free of charge.

Tuesday, April 16

The Facts of Light

Presenter: Lisa Eldred Steinkopf

Lisa is "The Houseplant Guru." Her blog, thehouseplantguru.com

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features all things houseplants. This presentation covers all aspects of light and the different exposures that are in our homes. Will your plant live best in a south, north, east or west window? How do you know which way your window faces? What is meant by high light, low light, medium light and which plants live in each? What if you don't have enough sunlight? She will talk about the use of electric lights to supplement natural light, as well as ways to enhance the light you have. Short day, long day, and day neutral plants are discussed, as well as aspects of houseplant care.

Tuesday, April 23

Designing Gardens That Draw Us In: Learn the Tools

Presenter: Judy Nauseef

Judy is a landscape designer and writer working in Eastern Iowa. We all love touring gardens and creating our own. But why do some make us want to stay? How has the designer or gardener accomplished their goals? What problems were solved? How did the choice of plants and other materials contribute to the appeal of the space? In this talk, Judy will cover useful tools to learn why a design works and how to use them in your own landscape or when assisting others with theirs.

Tuesday, April 30

Green Peace: Mindful Practices with Plants

Presenter: Rita Perea

Rita is an inspirational keynote speaker, consultant, writer, and gardener. She connects audiences with creative ideas that encourage mindfulness in the garden, yet practical enough to begin using right away. Mindfulness is a source of happiness. Not only can we grow a garden, we can also cultivate the harmony of body, mind, and beyond through our daily mindfulness practices with our plants. With a relaxed and gentle attitude, an open mind, and receptive heart, we can enjoy letting stress melt away and find peace in the garden. Rita will inspire your garden connection through practices which feed your soul and help you feel fulfilled.

2019 Charlene Woeste Plant Sale

Co-Chairs Karen Woeste, Beula Dvorak, Kim Becicka, Wanda Ohrt, and Phil Pfister

The 2019 Charlene Woeste Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 2019. This will be the 19th year the Linn County Master Gardeners have held a plant sale. The sale will take place at the American Legion Post 298, 625 31st Street, Marion, IA. Being able to have the sale indoors, and not have to worry about the weather is a real positive; and so is being able to receive, groom, price and set the plants in the sale area without having to carry the tables and plants up and down the stairs at the Extension Office. It's ironic that this year the sale is a weekend earlier, and the arrival of spring is REALLY late.

Included in this issue of the Germinator is the volunteer signup sheet, and frequently asked questions, which we hope will help everyone better understand the workings of the plant sale.

This sale is important, because it is one of our major fundraisers, but also because it's a chance for the Master Gardeners to share some of their favorite plants with the public, and for the public to be able to enjoy some of our favorite plants. In addition to the plants donated by the Master Gardeners, we will have a nice selection of flowers, herbs, arrangements and vegetables grown at the Lowe Park Greenhouse.

Please be generous with your plant donations.

2019 Plant Sale Guidelines

The 19th annual Linn County Master Gardener Charlene Woeste Plant Sale, in honor of our plant sale founder and long-time chair, Charlene Woeste, will be held on Saturday, May 11th, at The American Legion, Post 298, 625 31st Street, Marion, IA, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The plant sale is a major source of income for the Linn County Master Gardener programs. Its success depends on donations of high quality plants, named varieties, and unusual plants from the MGs. Please donate as many plants as you can.

Please dig your plants as soon as possible, so they can adjust to the containers and look salable by the Plant Sale. We would like to have all the plants brought to the American Legion Post 298, 625 31st Street, Marion, Ia., by 3:00 PM Friday the 10th. If you can't bring the plants on Friday, please contact Karen Woeste, (319) 270-5678, Hab319kiowa@gmail.com, Beula Dvorak, (319) 895-8206, bdvorak4@aol.com, Kim Becicka (319) 310-5941; Johnson_becicka@southslope.net, Wanda Ohrt (319) 939-4473, wanda.ohrt@gmail.com, Phil Pfister, (319) 360-1734, ppfister47@gmail.com, or the Linn County Extension Office to arrange another drop-off time. Please be as generous as you can with plants for the sale. We need a good selection of many kinds and choices of plants. Please let us know by April 6 of any unique and interesting plants so we can include them in the Plant Sale promotions.

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As Master Gardeners we want to be proud of the plants we are selling to the public, and our buyers look forward to, and expect to get really good plants from this sale. Please read and follow the instructions below.

- Perennials and other plants need to be planted in their pots at least 3 to 4 weeks before the sale. This will give them time to recover from transplant shock and they will put on some nice growth during this time. PLEASE DO NOT POT UP PLANTS THE NIGHT BEFORE THE SALE.

- Do not plant up plants that are too large.

- Make divisions of daylilies with 2 to 4 fans in each pot. Daylilies should be planted in a one gallon pot. Put a label in each pot with the name and color of the daylily.

- Make divisions of hosta with 2-3 plants in each pot. If you are sharing some of your more expensive hosta, one plant could be enough, but two would make it sell better. Put the name of the hosta in each pot. If the name is not known just put 'Name Unknown'. If you know the growth habit, please add that information (height, width, etc.). Also if it is one of your more expensive hosta, put a suggested selling price on the label.



- Other perennials should have large enough divisions that will make them attractive to our shoppers. Put the name of the perennial, its cultivar if you know it, and the color, on the label in each pot. You can use an ice cream stick, white plastic knife or spoon, or a venetian blind as your label. There will be labels available at the Extension Office.

- After planting up, water with a water-soluble fertilizer according to package directions. Water every 2 or 3 days, or as needed to encourage good root and top growth. Two weeks later, water with the same fertilizer at 1/2 strength. A day or two before the sale, groom each plant by removing any yellowed or dead leaves, or any weeds that have come up in the pot. Water each plant thoroughly.

- Look at each plant, and decide if it looks like a plant you want to buy. If not, leave it at home, plant it out in your garden and bring it next year.

- Please bring a list of plants you are bringing along with the number of each plant. You can hand it in when you bring your plants on Friday. If you have plants that you would like to donate, but don't know what they are, let us know as soon as possible. We will help identify them.

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- If you need help potting plants up, contact Jean Wilson (jlwilson@iastate.edu).
- To avoid confusion, if you use a pot that has a price written on it, please remove it or mark it out.

Plants should be taken to the American Legion Hall between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., on Friday, 10 May 2019.

If you need pots contact Phil Pfister (360-1734; ppfister47@gmail.com).

FAQ's for 2019 Plant Sale

Where & when is the sale?

The sale will be at The American Legion Post 298, 625 31st Street, Marion, IA. The sale will take place Saturday, May 11 2019, from 8:00 am-noon.

Where do I park?

Park at the far east end of the American Legion parking lot.

What are we doing on Friday?

We will be receiving plants at the American Legion all day Friday. We will need volunteers to assist with cleaning and pricing the plants and moving them to the sale area.

What happens during the Plant Sale?

From 8:00 to noon, volunteers will be assisting customers, watering plants, helping at checkout, stocking plants, etc. We would like the volunteers to assist the customers as much as possible to make this a very enjoyable experience for our customers. We want them to come away feeling very good about the quality of product, knowledge, service and value they received at our Plant Sale.

What should I wear?

Wear your MG name badge & dress for the weather. Even though we are inside, we will assist customers needing help moving their purchases to their vehicles. We would like everyone to wear their MG Polo shirts, but it is not required.

I signed up to volunteer at the Plant Sale but have not yet received my assignment. Will I be needed?

Yes. Plan to arrive ready to volunteer when you indicated you are available. Look for Karen Woeste, Beula Dvorak, Kim Becicka or Phil Pfister for direction.

What will be available at the Plant Sale?

All sorts of plants! We will also offer garden art, tools, gardening books, and other items in good condition, that are donated by the MGs.

Can MGs buy plants before the sale?

No. We want the public to support this event because they look forward to quality and special plants, and that there is an adequate supply available.

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Are donations being accepted of plants and garden art?

Yes. However, only plants that are healthy & that are recommended to plant in our zone. Tools, garden art, etc., should be in good condition and priced to sell. If it doesn't sell, plan on taking it back home.

Do we set up the tables before the sale, and take them down after the sale?

Yes, with assistance from the American Legion staff.

What happens if it rains?

Nothing. Sale continues.

What do we do with the leftover plants?

MGs will be able to buy them at a reduced rate. Donated garden art items will be returned to the donor or used for other events.

Will there be snacks and food for MGs?

Yes, they will be available to the MG's in the kitchen.

What happens at the end of the sale?

We will need to collect all the left-over plants and other items not sold, pack up the cash registers, make sure wagons, hoses, etc., are picked up by their owners. The Legion will take care of cleaning up the building.

What if I have questions about how to prep plants for the sale?

Ask the table lead or the chairs.

Chairs:

Karen Woeste (319) 270-5678 Hab319kiowa@gmail.com; Beula Dvorak (319) 895-8206 bdvorak4@aol.com; Kim Becicka (319) 310-5941 Johnson_becicka@southslope.net; Wanda Ohrt (319) 939-4473 wanda.ohrt@gmail.com; Phil Pfister (319) 360-1734 ppfister47@gmail.com

Table Leads:

Hostas - Jay McWherter, jaybirddad@aol.com
Daylilies - JoEllen Funk, jkinnefunk@gmail.com
Succulents & greenhouse plants – Sue Fletcher, suecfletch@me.com and Brenda Garbe, bbgarbe@hotmail.com
Wildflowers - Doug Smith, ufulu@aol.com
Ornamental grasses - Fran Potratz, potz23@hotmail.com
Perennials - Karen Woeste, hab319kiowa@gmail.com
Shade plants - Devon Dietz, Devondietz5@aol.com
Vegetables - Larry Edwards, lwedward@hotmail.com and Gene Nassif, snassif@mchsi.com

Save the Date—2019 Garden Walk

By Rose Blank

When the winter drags on and on and begins to seem too much, just imagine yourself walking among the lovely gardens of a few of the Linn County Master Gardeners and Interns.

This year's Garden Walk will be July 13. It will be a free event this year as a gift to the larger community to share the delights of gardening with others.

This year's gardens will be hosted at the homes of Randy and Teresa Dusil (2812 Chester Ct.), Karelyn Pohl (1101 25th St. SE), Carrie Nilsson (3601 Terrace Hill Dr. NE), Peggy Pearson (5420 Plainview Dr. NW), Tracy Hanson (401 Cottage Grove Ave. SE) and Austin Chadima (1816 Washington Ave. SE).

It takes many willing Master Gardener and Intern hands to make this event a success so please mark your calendars. We will need volunteers to help hosts prepare their gardens ahead of time and to be garden guides the day of the Walk. Most of the garden hosts have Lead people, but there may be a few openings for that as well. There will be more information in the coming months so watch for further updates. Thanks in advance for your willingness to be part of this year's Garden Walk.

Noelridge Greenhouse Easter Showcase

By Diane Stevens

The annual Noelridge Park Greenhouse Easter Showcase and Open House will be held the weekend of April 20 & 21, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Admission is free. The first 500 children attending will receive a free spring plant to start their gardening season.

The Friends of Noelridge volunteers, which includes many LCMG's have been working along side the greenhouse staff to get the greenhouse ready with blooming spring bulbs and Easter decorations. The greenhouses will be filled with flats of growing annuals waiting to be planted in parks and garden spaces throughout the city.

The showcase will feature aquarium displays from the Eastern Iowa Aquarium Association, information and items for sale by the Eastern Iowa Orchid Society, along with many other vendors and organizations displaying, selling, and distributing information to the public. The greenhouse will have tropical and indoor houseplants for sale.

Master Gardeners and Interns will volunteer at the MG Information table throughout the weekend or anywhere in the greenhouse to assist the public.

If Easter weekend is a time for family/friends and making memories, this is always a popular event. Plus, this is an excellent way for LCMG's to interact with the public.

Expert Ed Webinar—The World of Orchids

By Linda Hayward

Although February 25th was a cold, blustery winter evening, Dr. Nile Dusdieker brought a gorgeous blooming arrangement of orchids when he presented, "The World of Orchids" which made the large conference room almost feel like spring.

Dr. Dusdieker has a pergola at his home where he moves some of his orchids in warm weather. The drop in temperature from day to night is important to getting orchids to bloom. Even though orchids have the tiniest seeds in the world, Dr. Dusdieker has grown and cultivated an orchid that he has named "Lovely Lois" named for his wife, Lois. The seeds are like a speck of dust. It can take 5–7 years after germination for the plant to have its first flower. That takes patience!



Here are just a few orchid facts shared by Dr. Dusdieker:

- Largest family of flowering plants; Grow everywhere in world except in extreme heat or cold
- One of the oldest flowers in existence; Fossils show evidence of existence of about 100 million years.
- Species' heritage can be traced to beginnings; 1000s of varieties of orchids.
- One of the most popular houseplants; Phalaenopsis most common orchid.
- Size and number of flowers depends on the species; blooms can be size of dime or larger than human hand.
- Each flower has bilateral symmetric, which means that it can be divided in two equal parts.
- Leaf color should be olive green; Dark green - too much light; Yellow leaves with brown spots - not enough light.
- Have different and unusual roots; Some are tiny; Some have roots that like to grow outside the pot.
- Many wild orchid species are threatened by people collecting them for sale to orchid fanciers and nurseries and by destruction of their habitat by logging and forest clearing.

Dr. Dusdieker extended an invitation to check out the website: <http://easterniowaorchidsociety.org>. Anyone is welcome to the Society's meetings on the third Thursday of the month

Learning about orchids was valuable but just viewing all the varied and lovely pictures of orchids made the evening worthwhile for the 39 people who attended the presentation.

2019 WMT IHeart Outdoor Living Show

Co-chairs Barbara Wing and Sue Usher

The IHeart Outdoor Living Show was held Saturday and Sunday, the 9th and 10th of March. We were given a generous space for our setup as well as the seminar area. We had four tables. This year we set up with just free publications to share.

A large number of handouts were distributed. Volunteers answered lots of questions. Many were solicited and many came up through conversations as the volunteers talked to the people coming up to our tables. We received many good comments and responses about our willingness to share our knowledge and expertise.

A big thank you to the volunteers!! Twenty six Master Gardeners volunteered for the event. This included those helping to get materials to the venue and set up, as well as staffing the tables during the event. And five MGs did presentations throughout the two days.

On Saturday Wil Carew presented Spring Garden Maintenance, Wanda Lunn, Climbing Clematis, and Phil Pfister, Organic Gardening. Sunday Debbie Main presented Let Me Entertain You and Larry Edwards presented Life and Times of a Japanese Beetle.



Show attendance was about 750. It was less than last year. The ice, and very cold and windy days were part of the causes.

This event gives Master Gardeners and Iowa State Extension the opportunity to reach another demographic of people to become more aware of what we do and how to access our services.

Coordinator Comments

By: Jean Wilson



Hello, springtime!

I think we're seeing the light at the end of this winter tunnel. And you know what that means: our Busy Time is starting. But first of all, make sure to mark your calendars for the annual spring banquet on April 9. Invitations were mailed to all Linn County volunteers – make sure to get your RSVPs back to Janice ASAP.

We have a lot of events/projects underway. If you want to volunteer to help for any of them, just check the project list I sent out in March and contact any of the people involved. All projects need your help!

We're starting a few new prototype projects this year that might be of interest to you. There's the Junior Master Gardener program, held in conjunction with Old MacDonald's Farm at Beaver Park. We have the Boy Scout Merit Badge project, working with Indian Creek Nature Center. And we're working on a collaboration with New Bo Market, to have Master Gardeners speak twice a month on Saturday morning about a variety of topics, with some hands-on activities involved.

We're also going to evaluate the possibility of having a "hands-on" day late in the year (October or November), when the garden season starts to wrap up. Our hands-on classes at the Winter Garden Fair are always a huge success, but we're often limited by what we can do in a short amount of time. We're going to see if we can have an entire day devoted to hands-on workshops. Again: this is a prototype so we'll see how it goes!

In addition to all of those, we have our usual events and projects: Community Outreach Gardens, the Plant Sale, the Garden Walk, library talks, the Creative Gardening Series, webinars – lots of chances for you to get involved!

I'll be in touch to let you know when we need volunteers – until then, I hope we can all look forward to warmer weather soon.

Jean

April Library Talks

Coggon

216 East Main Street, Coggon
Wednesdays (6:30 – 7:30)

April 3: Perennials in 2019 (Deb Walser): Add the spice of life to your gardens. Perennial gardens do not have to be just Daylily and Hosta. We will talk about mixing it up by adding annuals for constant color in the same bed. LCMG Deb Walser will introduce you to some of the newest and coolest perennials. You will be surprised by some of the same but in a new way. Come and get new ideas for this spring and add some spunk to your garden

April 10: Tier Gardening and Tier Beds (Karen Woeste): Short on space? Come explore the ways that Tier gardening can change the appearance of a sloping area into a well-defined space of landscape beauty. Tier beds can give you more area to plant and grow the plants and veggies that you want, in a small space. We'll discuss both methods of gardening and show examples how you can use your space to beautify your yard tier.

April 17: Connect, grow, share a row (Beula Dvorak): Food insecurity is real. One in eight people in Linn County go to bed hungry. This session addresses the need and how you can be part of the solution. Learn what master gardeners are doing across the state of Iowa to make an impact. Then learn how YOU can get involved.

April 24: Gardening Folklore (Judy Stevens): Ancient Civilizations up to modern times have planted and propagated seeds and plants. With this life sustaining practice there were many superstitions and myths that were passed from generation to generation. This fun class will explore gardening folklore and myths. Join us for learning about these non-Iowa State approved gardening methods.

Ely Library

1595 Dows Street, Ely
Thursdays (6:30 – 7:30)

April 4: Perennials in 2019 (Deb Walser): Add the spice of life to your gardens. Perennial gardens do not have to be just Daylily and Hosta. We will talk about mixing it up by adding annuals for constant color in the same bed. LCMG Deb Walser will introduce you to some of the newest and coolest perennials. You will be surprised by some of the same but in a new way. Come and get new ideas for this spring and add some spunk to your garden

April 11: Celebrating Median Bearded Iris (Wanda Lunn): Extend the Iris bloom in your garden by growing Bearded Iris from the early 6" Mini

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Dwarfs to the 27" Border Bearded Iris. Many feature unusual color combinations! Great choices for smaller spaces or part shade gardens.

April 18: Connect, grow, share a row (Beula Dvorak): Food insecurity is real. One in eight people in Linn County go to bed hungry. This session addresses the need and how you can be part of the solution. Learn what master gardeners are doing across the state of Iowa to make an impact. Then learn how YOU can get involved.

April 25: Ring My Bells for Coral Bells! (Wil Carew): If you thought coral bells were just green plants with tiny pink flowers that your grandmother grew, think again. This class will cover what they are, where and how to plant, and the rainbow of colors available. Wil will show you how.

Central City Library

137 N. 4th Street, Central City

Thursdays (6:30 – 7:30)

April 4: Planting salsa gardens correctly (Clark Urbin): Learn the who, how, what and where of Gardening for salsa. recipes included

April 11: Discover Butterflies (Devon Dietz): The twenty most common butterflies in Iowa. Wonderful photos of caterpillar and adult. Lists of the food sources for the caterpillar and the adults.

April 18: Climbing Color; Clematis in your Garden (Wanda Lunn): Clematis can add height and glorious color to your garden using very little space! Easy to grow with a rainbow of blooms. Plant them on a trellis, fence or wall for all summer color.

April 25: Creating Outdoor Rooms (Carol Elliot): Our property is a palate for creating spaces to relax, renew, rejuvenate or even energize. So often, we overlook our porch, patio, deck or yard in designing our personal spaces. As we break down our property into outdoor "rooms" with different purposes, we can build creative spaces that truly reflect our personality and style. We will discuss ideas for outdoor rooms and share our own inspirations with the group.

Fairfax Library

313 Vanderbilt Street, Fairfax

Thursdays (6:30 – 7:30)

April 4: Gardening Folklore (Judy Stevens): Ancient Civilizations up to modern times have planted and propagated seeds and plants. With this life sustaining practice there were many superstitions and myths that were passed from generation to generation. This fun class will explore folklore and myths associated with gardening. Join us for learning about these non-Iowa State approved gardening methods.

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April 11: Raised Bed/Square Foot Gardens (Wil Carew): Get off the ground, save your back and start gardening closer to your hands and eyes. Wil gets you started with the benefits of raised beds, covering the principles, examples of beds, construction techniques, trellis/cloche use, and protecting crops from critters.

April 18: Bees, Birds, Bats & Butterflies...oh my! (Lisa Hinzman Howard): Discover how you can attract pollinators to your garden and help them thrive. We'll touch on why supporting pollinators matters, plant selection, hardscapes to help our flying friends in addition to habitat dos and don'ts for creating your own pollinator friendly paradise.

April 25: Gorilla Gardening in Sun and Shade! (Peggy Pearson): Small yard? Too much shade? Too much sun? Learn how to persevere (gorilla your way) and blaze a trail of new gardens when you have little to no space - in shade or sun! Horizontally, vertically, unusual spots, hay bales or pots. Also some cheap DIY gardening decor and plant ideas.

Lowe Park Greenhouse Needs Your Help!

Demonstration Garden:

We have a few openings for people that would like to adopt a Lowe Park Demo Garden to design, plant, maintain for the year. We'll have an informational meeting on Monday April 15th at 6:30, at the Lowe Park Demonstration Gardens.

In particular we would like 2-3 people to work on the Children's Garden, expanding on what has been planted before and implementing your new ideas. There is also a garden right next to the front walkway that gets lots of traffic, and a lot of roof run-off. The sky is wide open on these gardens, so bring your ideas and fellow master gardeners to learn more.

We also can use anyone that could volunteer their time to do general work on any garden as needed. It may be spring clean-up, planting, watering, mulching or anything that else that needs to happen in a garden. We'll buddy you up with a garden or you can float as needed. Contact Brenda Garbe (319-361-8517; bbgarbe@hotmail.com) if you have questions or can't attend but would like to get involved.

Greenhouse:

We are in full production now at the greenhouse. We have work sessions Tuesday and Thursday mornings, starting at 9:00. Please come out to help as there is a lot to do. There are also some Thursday evening sessions from 6:30 to 8:00. Contact Phil (ppfister47@gmail.com) for details.

Many Volunteer Opportunities Available

Insect Person Needed: Jean has a request from Rockwell's Early Childhood Center about having an MG speak in April about how insects help us (and about jobs with insects). It would be either April 8, 9, or 12, with a morning class or afternoon class (or both if you'd like). Morning class has 3-5 year olds and afternoon is all 4 and 5 year olds. You can work with the instructor to determine how long your talk would be. If interested, Jean can put you in touch with the instructor.

WIN Program (Wellness and Independence through Nutrition): Jean received an email from Susan Taylor, one of our Human Science specialists. She'd like to partner with an MG or two for a presentation at the Marion Library in April, in the morning. The programming is "Gardening: How to Grow Your Wallet", using container gardening publication from ISU (PM 870B WIN). The program is for older adults. If interested, Jean will put you in touch with Susan. You'll need to review the materials and work with Susan on the presentation.

Hands-On Holiday: A couple of MGs have approached Jean with the idea of having a one-day mini-event in the fall (later in October, perhaps). It would consist of 4 or 5 hands-on classes, with a possible box lunch provided. Our hands-on classes are always sell-outs at the Winter Garden Fair, and we thought it might be fun to have an all-day event, where folks can spend a bit more time on a class. If interested in working on an event like this, please contact Jean who will gather some names and see if we can brainstorm an event to submit to the Steering Committee for review.

Eco-Fest: Eco-Fest will be on April 20 at New Bo from 10-4. We plan to have two tables there, one with a hands-on activity for kids (a bean necklace--so fun!) and one table with publications and "ask a MG". If you'd like to help out, we'd love to have you! It's a fun way to get in those volunteer hours. Contact Tina Allison (tsallison23@gmail.com).

Mac Help Needed: Do you know Apple systems? Barb Wing would like some help with her PowerPoint presentation on her Mac. Contact Barb directly at barley92@hotmail.com.

Planting for Pollinators: The kick-off meeting for PFP will be May 1 at 6:00 at the Extension Office. Mark your calendars now.

County Fair Judge: A county fair judge for the Horticulture category: this could be flowers, vegetables, plant production -- a variety of topics. It is one day (lots of volunteer hours), on June 24. Contact Mary Dlouhy at the Extension Office (377.9839 ext 314) for details.

New Bo Gardens: We need YOU at New Bo! PLEASE volunteer to help at this garden--it gives us such great visibility in the community. Specifically, we need: 1) Co-Chair: We need someone to help Tina Allison manage the planting, watering, and growing and the volunteer schedules; 2) Watering coordinator: we need to set up a watering schedule for the beds AND we need folks to do the actual watering. This is a minimal time commitment, but over the course of the summer, you'll get your hours in!

March 5, 2019 – Steering Committee Minutes—DRAFT

The meeting was called to order and roll called.

Present: Lynne Brokaw, Randy Dusil, Julie Clemens, Jan Knott, Cindy Lehman, Sam Krumholz, Jackie Maclaren, Kay McWhinney, Bev Whitmore, and Diane Wiesenfeld. **Absent :** Kathy Carew (Excused), Linda Hofmeister (Excused), Deb Walser (Excused), and Diane Brooks.

Approval of previous month's minutes: The minutes for the January 2019 meeting were approved.

Financial Report:

The February Financial Report was distributed and reviewed.

Coordinator Report:

There are 2 current Memorials. One includes a pergola at Lowe Park intended for installation this spring. Follow-up will be done on the specifics of the 2nd memorial.

Kids First has a fundraiser in May and has approached the Master Gardener Program requesting a donation. An offering will be made of 1 or 2 admissions to next year's Winter Garden Fair in keeping with our educational mission.

Tanager Summerfest is June 1st at Rockwell Rec Center and they have expressed interest for MG participation. A current MG member employed by Rockwell will be contacted to get further details to determine desired level of involvement.

A verbal request was made to offer more hands-on workshops potentially in October consistent with feedback at WGF. A formal proposal will be requested for further consideration and development.

Old Business:

The Revised Project List was distributed.

Various Project Templates will be streamlined for consistency.

New Business:

The proposal for The Iowa Big Seed Exchange was distributed for electronic polling and approved.

A revised budget request for the awards banquet was presented to the Executive Committee and distributed for review by the Steering Committee. The Awards Committee Chair will be asked to further clarify the increase total and itemize between Flamingo increase vs. supply

increase. The inclusion of a 20% gratuity was approved pending determination that it was not duplicating if already part of vendor cost. Photo Release Guidelines and forms will be distributed to the Membership. Feed Iowa First has approached the program to invite a partnership. Feedback from the WGF noted preference for the 5 classes format presented this year. Overall feedback is being compiled for the purpose of continued improvement going forward. P/R and advertising needs are being reviewed by the Extension as a whole.

Motion to Adjourn

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday April 2, 2019, 6:30 PM-Large Conference Room

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Monday March 18, 2019, 3:00 pm-Small Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted,
Randy Dusil

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

Linn County Extension **Master Gardeners**
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2019 Charlene Woeste Plant Sale Volunteer Sign-up Sheet

Name: _____ email: _____ phone: _____

Volunteers are needed to make the plant sale run smoothly! Help is needed to groom the plants for sale, label, price, and stage the plants and assist during the sale. Please bring pruners to groom the plants, and boxes, wagons, and watering cans to use during the sale.

Please sign up for the following times or let us know what times you can work, and if you have any specific areas you want to work. **Please return this form to Jean Wilson, jlwilson@iastate.edu, by Friday, 4 May 2019.** If you email the form to Jean, make sure to change the name of the file to include your name (for example, *2019 Plant Sale Signup Jean W.docx*).

Friday, 10 May – Activities include receiving, counting, grooming, pricing and moving incoming plants to the sale area. Please check any and all times that you can work:

8:00 AM – 12:00

1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Saturday, 11 May – Volunteers are needed to assist with any final setup and preparation of the sales area. During the sale, volunteers are needed to clean and organize plants and the sale area, water, assist at the plant tables, assist customers, and teardown and cleanup at the end of the sale. Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your shift:

Please specify if you have a desired area to work, and check the time you would like to work: _____

7:30 to 10:00

10:00 to cleanup

Committee members and table chairs, please arrive by 7:00 a.m. Saturday.