

# Germinator



Vol. 29, No. 8 Editors: Julie Stark/Lisa Slattery

August 2019

## **LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EVENTS**

### ***Steering Committee Meeting***

Extension Office  
August 6 • 6:30 pm

### ***Extension Council Meeting***

Extension Office  
August 12 • 5:00 pm

### ***Executive Committee Meeting***

Extension Office  
August 19 • 3:00 pm

### ***Pollinator Bus Trip to Central Iowa***

August 9—details inside

### ***Trainee Classes***

Extension Office  
August 13, 20, 27 • 6:00 pm

## **2019 Garden Walk Recap**

*By Rose Blank, Garden Walk Committee Member*

This year's Garden Walk on Saturday, July 13 was a great success! The co-chairs, Barb Neal and Sarah Neff, express their gratitude for all of the hosts, leads, and crews of volunteers who worked to prepare the gardens and helped the day of the walk and the staff at the Extension Office.

Thank you to the creative efforts of Karla McGrail, Julie Stark, Debbie Main, Jan Knott and Wanda Ohrt for donating their personal artwork for the door prizes. Each prize was a beautiful way to remember the day

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for those fortunate to have had their names drawn. It was this wonderful collaborative effort that made the walk a GREAT day!

The hosts/hostesses opened their gardens to approximately 500 guests. Teams working at each garden heard many positive comments about how much they appreciated the opportunity to view each of the gardens.

The comment most heard from the guests was how much they really enjoyed the great diversity shown among the 6 gardens. Fortunately, the weather cooperated! With the light cloud cover, it was a most enjoyable way to spend a Saturday in July. Thanks again to all who made this great day possible.



*Photos from the gardens of Master Gardeners, Randy and Teresa Dusil.*



*Photos from the gardens of Master Gardener, Carrie Nilsson, and husband, Kurt.*



*Photos from the gardens of Master Gardener, Peggy Pearson, and husband, Mike.*

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Photos from the gardens of Intern, Karie Pohl.



Photos from the gardens of Intern, Tracey Hansen & husband, Dave



Photos from the gardens of Friends of Master Gardeners, Austin and Jen Chadima.

Photo right: Jean Wilson has a monarch riding along during the Friday night previews, with Gene Nassif looking on.



## The Harvest Continues!

*By Beula Dvorak*

In spite of the cool wet spring, our Community Gardens are planted and looking GREAT for the most part. And the harvest continues with the following reports from mid-June to mid-July:

**Olivet** --- 203.2 lbs.

**Dept. of Corrections** --- 40.07 lbs.

**Catherine McAuley** --- 132lbs.

**Horizons** --- 45 lbs.

**SE Linn Community Center** --- 225.6 lbs.

**Wellington Heights Neighborhood** --- 23.35 lbs.

**Marion Uptown** --- 32.5 lbs.

**Prairiewoods** --- 33.5 lbs.

**New Bo** --- 29.75 lbs.

Produce included in these amounts include radishes, lettuce, kale, cucumbers, spinach, broccoli, swiss chard, flat peas, zucchini, beets, cabbage, beans, strawberries, collard greens, nappa cabbage, carrots, summer squash, onions, turnip greens, tomatoes, and a variety of herbs.

There is still time for YOU to get involved in our CONNECT, GROW, SHARE A ROW project. Contact Janice at the Extension Office and get your donor ID#. Any time you donate produce to HACAP, or Olivet Mission, Catherine McAuley, Catholic Charities, SE Linn Community Center, or Marion Food Pantries, use this ID# to help track the kind and amount of produce donated. If many MGs/interns participate every bit of produce donated helps to fight food insecurity in our community.

If you have specific questions about the program, please contact Beula Dvorak at [bdvorak4@aol.com](mailto:bdvorak4@aol.com) or 895-8206.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

### REMINDER - Sign Up Now For Bus Trip

*By Linda Hinzman*

The Pollinator project is sponsoring a bus trip to central Iowa on Friday, August 9! Registration is open by calling the extension office (319-377-9839) or e-mailing Janice at [jsavel@iastate.edu](mailto:jsavel@iastate.edu). The cost is \$25, which covers the bus transportation, lunch, and admissions. Because of insurance restrictions, only Master Gardeners, interns, and extension employees can participate in this trip. See the July Germinator for details.

Only 50 seats are available on the bus, so please register now (through the extension office as noted above). If there are particular questions, please e-mail Linda Hinzman at [linnieza@aol.com](mailto:linnieza@aol.com).

# Linn County Fair 2019: Master Gardeners for Mason Bees

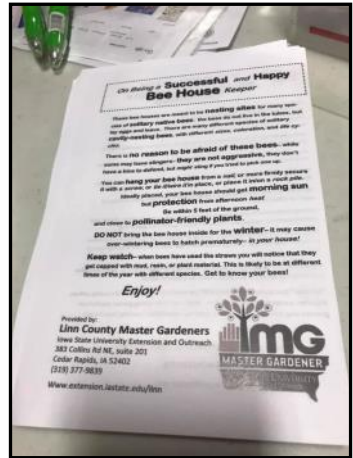
By Becki Lynch

The Planting for Pollinators "Fair" Team spent Friday, June 28, having a blast at the Linn County Fair!

We put together the materials to make Mason Bee Houses, and had fun showing the younger children how to make them. We also handed out information sheets on Mason Bees, and how best to mount and maintain the house.

Although the day started slow due to a thunderstorm and rain, the pace picked up considerably by noon, and overall 71 houses were sent home with the kids who made them.

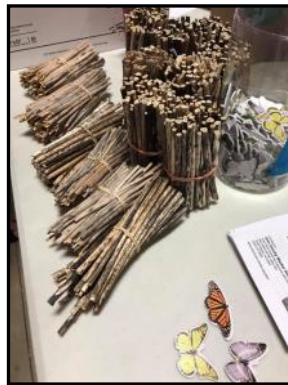
Thanks to the "Fair" Team -- Linda, Bev, Julie, Coleen, Karla, Robyn, Kathy and Becki.



Handout: "How to Become a Successful and Happy Bee House Keeper".



Master Gardeners, Bev Whitmore (left) and Linda Hinzman (right), prepare materials for the Mason Bee Houses.



## Fall Library Talks Begin in September

By Deb Walser

Be on the look-out for the schedule of library talks starting at Hiawatha in September, Marion library in October and Ladd Library in November. All talks will be Wednesdays 6:30-7:30. Topic to be announced later. Check the web site.

## Upcoming Webinars

*By Linda Hayward*

**Note:** It is important to register for the webinars as handouts will be available. Look for the link to register in next month's Germinator or call the Linn County Extension (319) 377-9839 or email [jorah@iastate.edu](mailto:jorah@iastate.edu)

**Thursday, September 19, 2019:** The below webcast and presentation will be Thursday, September 19, 2019 be at the Extension Office, 383 Collins Road NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa in the large conference room from 6:30 – 8:30. The Webcast and Master Gardeners International Panel presentation will be open to Master Gardeners and the public.

**Webcast - Give Your Garden Wings:** Jessie Lowry, Director of Conservation and Research at Blank Park Zoo, will share pollinator garden best practices. Participants will learn what to plant and will get to explore the monarch butterfly migration.

**2019 International Master Gardeners Conference Panel:** Join us for an informational panel after the Webinar to highlight the sessions we attended, and the new research information we learned. Below is a list of the topics and tours we will review within the hour.

Overview of the MG Coordinators Meeting: Jean Wilson

Southeast Agricultural Research and Extension Center-Amish Culture, Traditions, and Farming Methods: Diane Stevens

The du Pont Influence: Mt. Cuba and Winterthur - Garden Tour, Bog Gardening, Trial Garden Research: Linda Hinzman

Flowering Trees Certification and INSPIRED by BACH: The Music Garden: Becki Lynch

Emerging Pests: Kathy Carew

Bee Nutrition and Macro Photography: Karla McGrail

Writing Skills for MG's and Speaking Skills for MG's: Lisa Howard

**Hope to see you there - it's not too soon to think about attending the next conference in 2021 in Virginia!**

**Monday, September 23, 2019:** The below webcasts will be Monday, September 23, 2019 be at the Extension Office, 383 Collins Road NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa in the large conference room from 6:30 – 8:30. The Webcasts will be open to Master Gardeners and the public.

**Gardening FAQ.** From vegetables to flowers, explore the in-depth answers to frequently asked gardening questions with Aaron Steil, Assistant Director at Reiman Gardens.

**Ecology Plus Diversity.** Explore how to create plant communities that mimic nature with Grant Thompson, Assistant Professor of Horticulture at Iowa State.

## 2019 Master Gardener Training Schedule

Master Gardeners are still needed to become mentors for the upcoming class, beginning August 13. This is an excellent opportunity to volunteer and to meet our new "crop" of MG. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the Extension Office.

### Class Schedule

DATE	TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER(S)	LOCATION
Tuesday, August 13	6:00- 8:00 pm	<b>Orientation and Introductions</b> Current MGs are welcome to attend. Will provide a "get to know you" activity. Staff will be present to introduce themselves and their roles.	RaeAnn Gordon, Jean Wilson, Jim Harkin, Extension Council Members, Extension and Outreach staff	Extension Office
Tuesday, August 20	6:00- 7:30 pm	<b>Vegetables and Herbs Composting</b>	Beula Dvorak and Heather Robertson	Community Garden Scavenger Hunt
Tuesday, August 27	6:00- 7:30 pm	<b>Herbaceous Ornamentals</b>	Deb Walser	Noelridge Park
Tuesday, September 3	6:00- 7:30 pm	<b>Trees &amp; Shrubs</b>	Mike Anderson	Anderson Home 223 Teakwood Lane NE, CR
Tuesday, September 10	6:00- 7:30 pm	<b>IPM, Weed ID</b>	Karla McGrail	Lowe Park bug & weed hunt
Tuesday, September 17	6:00- 7:30 pm	<b>Animal Ecology, Native Plants</b>	Jean Wiedenheft	Indian Creek Nature Center
Tuesday, September 24	6:00- 7:30 pm	<b>Houseplants, Plant Propagation</b>	Linda Shepard and Deb Walser	Lowe Park
Tuesday, October 1	6:00- 7:30 pm	<b>Landscape Design</b>	<i>Kirkwood speaker?</i>	Extension Office
Tuesday, October 8	6:00- 7:30 pm	<b>Fruit Culture</b>	Chris Jensick	Allen's Orchard 5801 10 <sup>th</sup> St. Marion
October 19	On your own	On-Campus at ISU		
Tuesday, October 22	6:00- 7:30 pm	<b>Turf, Soil Health, Pesticides</b>	<i>Parks and Recreation Speaker?</i>	Extension Office
Tuesday, October 29	6:00- 8:00 pm	<b>Final Class &amp; Wrap Up</b>	Jean Wilson and RaeAnn Gordon, Mentors	Extension Office
Nov 4	6:00 pm	<b>Fall Celebration</b>	RaeAnn Gordon Jean Wilson Steering Cmte. Mentors	Lowe Park

# Coordinator Comments

By: Jean Wilson



## A Successful Garden Walk—What’s Next?

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with this year’s Garden Walk. We had very good weather for it and we had a huge turnout. Our estimate is at least 500 people, and probably more, who went through the six gardens. A special thanks to Barb Neal and Sarah Neff, our co-chairs, and to the Master Gardeners who let us tramp through their yards: Tracy Hansen, Kari Pohl, Randy and Teresa Dusil, and Peggy Pearson. We also had a “friend of the MGs”, Austin Chadima, who opened his home to us. And let’s not forget a big thanks to the spouses and friends who helped as well!

The planning for this event starts the year before, when local gardens are evaluated for inclusion. Between that time and the Walk, there are meetings, hot days spent in the gardens getting them ready, more meetings, and volunteers who make it all happen. Thanks again to everybody who stepped up and helped.

The Garden Walk is our last major event of the year, so that can only mean one thing: we’re planning for next year! Meetings are underway for the Winter Gardening Fair, firming up our topics for the event, looking at catering options, and starting to think about publicity and other aspects. The Hands-on for the Holiday committee has met to determine what workshops will be offered in November and I’m starting to look at the calendar for our Fall Celebration.

Training for our 15 new interns begins in a few weeks, so Janice and I will be getting materials ready for that. I’ll be asking our MGs to step up as mentors for the new folks, so we can get them off on the right foot.

And don’t forget the bus trip on August 9. If you haven’t signed up, I urge you to do so. It promises to be a fun outing!

Jean



## July 9, 2019 – Steering Committee Minutes—DRAFT

The meeting was called to order and roll called.

**Present:** Diane Brooks, Lynne Brokaw, Randy Dusil, Linda Hofmeister, Cindy Lehman, Jan Knott, Kay McWhinney, Deb Walser, Bev Whitmore, and Diane Wiesenfeld; **Absent:** Kathy Carew; **Absent but excused:** Julie Clemens, Sam Krumbholz, and Jackie MacLaren; **Also Attending:** Jean Wilson.

Approval of previous month's Minutes: The minutes for the June 4, 2019 meeting were distributed and approved. The June Financial Report and Transaction Report were distributed and reviewed with clarifications.

### Coordinator Report:

A recap from the International Conference will be presented in the fall.

The current number of trainees is at 14 with classes starting August 13<sup>th</sup>. Anyone available to become a mentor is invited to contact the extension office.

A suggestion was received for a presence at the Downtown Farmers Market. This was tried in the past with mixed success and is not currently in the works going forward.

An additional volunteer is needed to step forward as the second shadow person for the winter Garden Fair.

The Mt. Vernon Wellness Center, which is currently under construction, has potential for gardening programming and an outreach garden.

### Old Business:

Some smaller spend down needs were accomplished prior to the close of the fiscal year and a clearer overall focus will be proposed following the study that is underway for the head house at Lowe Park Greenhouse. A recent suggestion was to hold a social event. The pollinators sponsored educational bus trip on Friday August 9 currently has seats to be filled.

### New Business:

The 2nd quarter project reports were distributed for information and review. One need discussed was the desire for fresh volunteers as speakers throughout the year and at Winter Garden Fair and new topics of their own interest.

The basement area storage will be shrinking in size as the first room off the corridor will be devoted to a conference room.

Iowa State University is conducting a research study on food safety covering planting through harvesting and distribution.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday August 6, 6:30 PM - Small Conference Room

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Monday July 22, 3:00 pm - Small Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted, Randy Dusil

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Extension and Outreach

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