

Germinator



Vol. 30, No. 8 Editors: Julie Stark/Kathy Hughes

August 2020

LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EVENTS

Steering Committee Meeting*

Extension Office
August 4 • 6:30 pm

Extension Council Meeting*

Extension Office
August 10 • 5:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting*

Extension Office
August 24 • 3:00 pm

* Meetings held via Webex—email Jean Wilson if you wish login information (jlwilson@iastate.edu)

Awards Banquet Cancelled!

By Sam Krumbholz and Jane Schlidroth, Co-Chairs

During a recent zoom meeting with MG Program Coordinator, Jean Wilson and MG Project Chairs, it was recommended by the Awards Banquet Committee, and agreed to by Project Chairs, to cancel this year's Banquet.

Hopefully the 2021 Banquet will be extra special and enjoyed by all with the 2019 award recipients being acknowledged at that time.

Please see Page 2 of this *Germinator* issue for a corrected list of those recipients.

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Corrected 2019 Award Recipients

It was brought to our attention that the Germinator failed to include the award recipients for the 500 accumulated and 1000 accumulated hours in last month's issue. We apologize for the omissions and include the corrected list below.

100+ Hours in 2019

Steve Bartlett
Rose Blank
Lynne Brokaw
Julie Clemens
Jo Dillon
Judi Dolezal
Cindy Fagan
Carson Fixmer
Sue Fletcher
Brenda Garbe
Tracy Hansen
Lisa Howard
Kathy Hughes
Sam Krumbholz
Becki Lynch
Donna McCabe
Mary Middola
Rose Milden
Barb Neal
Sarah Neff
Julie Quebe
Julie Stark
Diane Stevens
Paula Wilson
Barb Wing

200+ Hours in 2019

Mike Anderson
Wil Carew
Devon Dietz
Randy Dusil
Beula Dvorak
Larry Edwards
Linda Hayward

Linda Hinzman
Coleen Kint
Cindy Lehman
Wanda Lunn
Karla McGrail
Sue Murphy
Wanda Ohrt
Phil Pfister
Fran Potratz
Doug Smith
Sue Usher
Deb Walser
Bev Whitmore
Diane Wiesenfeld
Karen Woeste

500 Accumulated

Lisa Howard
Paula Wilson
Julie Clemens
JoEllen Funk
Judy Teply
Randy Dusil
Cindy Lehman

1000 Accumulated

Jane Schildroth
Larry Edwards
Claire Smith
Diane Wiesenfeld
Judi Dolezal
Barb Brown
Bev Whitmore
Jean Minehart
Laurie Azeltine

Paula Schulte
Dick Harrison
Kay McWhinney

2000 Accumulated

Beula Dvorak
Judy Stevens
Kathy Carew
Becki Lynch
Linda Hayward

5000 Accumulated

Wil Carew
Doug Smith

Silver Trowel

Fran Potratz

Project Teams

Garden Walk (all years)

Jack of All Trades

Kathy Carew

MG of the Year

Sue Usher

New MG of the Year

Wanda Ohrt
Sue Murphy

Lifetime

Linda Hinzman
Barb Wing
Karen Woeste

Low Park Monarch Zone Update

By Julie Clemens

Our Monarch season has begun at Lowe Park! On Wednesday July 1st we received five female and three male Monarchs from the Monarch Research Project to place in our tent for the purpose of reproduction and egg laying. After inspection on July 3rd it appeared that many eggs had been laid on the milkweed. The Monarchs were released from the tent that day.

From the time of egg laying until hatching is about four or five days and approximately another 10 to 14 days for them to become ready to go into chrysalis. It is amazing how fast they grow! We were able to show our tent off to those folks who attended the Garden Walk. It was exciting to see the kids try to find the caterpillars!

This picture (right) was taken July 16th, when we have many healthy looking caterpillars. Several milkweed plants were stripped of leaves. They looked ready to start climbing up the tent to go into their chrysalis stage.

It only took one day and most of the caterpillars are in their chrysalis all around the tent! An unofficial count was 170 with more to come. It will take one to two weeks for the Monarch to emerge. At that time, they will be released by hand from the tent, counting male and female for reporting to MRP purposes. This will be our only generation in the tent.



Appreciation to Demonstration Gardens Volunteers

By Brenda Garbe

July was a busy month at the Demonstration Gardens getting everything ship shape for the Garden Walk and we couldn't have done it without all the volunteers that came out to help us. Thank you to everyone who helped us move mulch, weed, construct structures and everything in-between.

The Gardens look amazing, so come by and enjoy them, bring your lunch, dog or children too, the views are awesome.



Community Outreach Gardens Update

By Beula Dvorak

The gardens are growing and harvesting has begun. As of early July Southeast Linn Community Center has harvested and received donations totaling 259.25 lbs. of fresh produce which has been distributed through their local food pantry. This does include some generous donations of two local CSA farms – Morning Glory Farm and Abbe Hills Farm and we thank them for their generous support to SE Linn and participating in our CONNECT, GROW, SHARE A ROW project.

The Marion Community Gardens has harvested and donated 41 lbs of produce. Looking forward to hearing from more gardens in the coming month as more produce is harvested and distributed.

Any Master Gardener is invited to participate. Contact Beula Dvorak to get an ID number, or just tell HACAP when you deliver produce it is for the Master Gardener project. THANKS so much for considering helping to address food insecurity in our community.



Catherine McAuley



Wellington Heights



Lowe Park



Olivet

Coordinator Comments

By: Jean Wilson



The Garden Walk is behind us and I'm counting it as a success. True, we had fewer people than usual, but we also had less promotional opportunities (no library talks, for example) and let's face it – many people are not comfortable going where there might be crowds. And that's okay – this is an odd year all around, and we'll roll with the punches. Thanks so much to those who participated, who prepped the garden, and who did the planning. You did a great job under very odd circumstances.

I'm going to meet with the Project Leaders soon so we can start mapping out what might be possible for next year. We need to consider what might be happening and whether we can proceed with our usual activities the way we've done them in the past. I expect that we won't be able to have some of our usual events. For example, our library talks might not be able to happen because that all depends on the library. Some area libraries are planning to stay closed with just brief appointments available for patrons. So we need to re-think how we'll deliver education to our community even while we can't meet people face-to-face.

The Winter Gardening Fair planning committee is already meeting because we need to get all details to Kirkwood ASAP. That committee will be asking for more volunteers as plans are finalized. We don't expect to have the same kind of event we've had in the past, but we will have an event. That's what we're planning on, at least. I'll share more details as we get things planned. As I did for the Plant Sale and the Garden Walk, I need to prepare a document for our office and for Public Health personnel to review and keep on file, to show that we are following all pertinent guidelines.

I'm disappointed to say that ISU has mandated that our training all be done hands-off – we cannot require in-person meetings for the training. I had a pretty nifty schedule worked out and I have to scrap that. I considered canceling training this year, but our training committee came up with some ideas for how it might be done. Several people have decided not to take training. They want to wait until next year, when (hopefully) things will be back to normal. Many counties have canceled training because they don't have resources available to plan training – most counties do not have an MG Coordinator but have office personnel who also double as coordinators, and they don't have time to work out ten weeks of classes.

It appears that between training and WGF planning, I'll be busy this fall! I'll be sending out email soliciting some help as soon as we know what kind of help we need. So watch for that – we'll need your help to make it all happen!

Linn County Master Gardener Steering Committee Meeting July 7, 2020 – 6:30 PM Remotely via ZOOM

The meeting was called to order and roll called.

Present: Rose Blank, Lynne Brokaw, Diane Brooks, Julie Clemens, Randy Dusil, Tracy Hansen, Linda Hofmeister, Jan Knott, Cindy Lehman, Barb Neal, Jennifer Reed, Deb Walsler, Bev Whitmore and Diane Wiesenfeld.

Also Attending: Jean Wilson (MG Coordinator) and Marcy Walker

Minutes from the June 2, 2020 meeting were approved.

Discussion With Project Leaders:

Marion Seed Library: Marcy Walker reported on the project which is in year 2. The project has been unable to proceed and will be somewhat at a standstill due to closure of the library. Some ideas for related presentations such as seed saving and seed starting are being considered. An article for the Gazette and some advertising would bring more exposure to the project once the library reopens. The Seed Library could also serve as a source for Lowe Greenhouse, COG and various programs as well.

Coordinator Report:

The bulk of the report centers on difficulties, challenges and uncertainties related to ongoing COVID-19 virus restrictions.

Jean is awaiting guidance from ISU as to how volunteer and education hours will be handled for 2020.

ISU has directed that 2020 training for incoming MG's must be contactless/virtual. This limits hands on training exercises. There were 18 applicants attending open houses held and many are now reconsidering and/or dropping. Jean will be meeting with the Training Committee to discuss options.

This may be a precursor to other fall events such as Library Talks since many libraries are closed and/or operating on limiting terms.

Creative Gardening Series is also not likely due to the large gathering it draws.

The Winter Garden Fair, if held, would require a reformatted scaled back approach.

Budgeting for the year may need to be reevaluated since revenue from events pays for our programming with WGF being one of the leading revenue producers likely being scaled back.

COVID-19 requirements follow both State and County guidelines using, in some cases, that which may be more restrictive.

A meeting will be held with Project Chairs to plan for the year ahead considering worst case possibilities.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, August 4, 2020, 6:30 pm via ZOOM

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Monday, July 20, 2020, 3:00 pm via ZOOM

Respectfully Submitted,
Randy Dusil

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

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