

**LINN COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER EVENTS**

Steering Committee Meeting

Extension Office
December 3 • 6:30 pm

Extension Council Meeting

Extension Office
December 9 • 5:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting

Extension Office
December 16 • 3:00 pm

Winter Garden Fair Previews

Extension Office
December 7, 10, 14, 19 & 21
Refer to Full Schedule on Page 4-5

SAVE THE DATE - Winter Gardening Fair is fast approaching!

Julie Clemens & Bev Witmer - Co Chairs WGF

Saturday, February 15th, 2020 is the date of our 18th Annual Winter Gardening Fair. The event will be held in a new location – Kirkwood Regional Center, 1770 Boyson Road, Hiawatha, IA. Planning for the event is well underway. We have lowered the day tuition to \$49!! Tuition includes choice of five classes from over 70 choices, 30+ horticultural related society displays and vendors plus a baked-potato buffet lunch.

Plan to attend WGF class previews in December and earn education hours. Many volunteer opportunities will be needed the day of and signup sheets will be distributed soon.

Watch for email's from our Master Gardener Coordinator with additional information.

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Fall Celebration Recognizes New Trainees/Interns

This year's fall celebration at the Lowe Park Facility, was held the evening of November 4, 2019. The committee would like to thank all those who attended and the wonderful food and conversation that was shared with everyone.

All 13 trainees were in attendance (photo below). See pages 6-8 in this *Germinator* issue for individual photos and a short bio of each of our new trainees.



Trainees—Front row (left to right): April Harris, Chris Goodsmith, Pat Cargin, Diana Flander, Lisa Buckman, Janice Fiebele and Joni Fassler. Back row (left to right): Amber Mullen, Sandra Whitters, Beth Weeks, Sue Astley, Mark Goodsmith and Roger Cruz.

Also recognized was the Class of 2018 (photo next page) who have completed their required 40 volunteer hours to receive their Master Gardener status and official MG nametag.

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Interns in attendance (left to right): Kari Pohl, Dixie Long, Juli Schoff, Teresa Wake, Rose Blank and Sue Murphy. Interns not pictured: Gina Milroy, Rebecca Riedesel, Heather Robertson, Christina Littler, Carine Klein and Wanda Ohrt.

Following the ceremony, both classes were excited to speak with the committee/project chairs to sign up to volunteer for the upcoming year.



2020 Winter Garden Fair Previews

Calling all Linn County Master Gardeners and Interns - The 2020 Winter Garden Fair preview sessions have been scheduled. Join our own Master Gardeners as they share their knowledge and expertise on a vast array of subject matter. Come for one class or two, or plan on spending the whole day gaining valuable information you can use and share with our community.

All sessions will be held in the large conference room at the Extension Office at 383 Collins Rd. NE. These hours can be used to complete your education hour requirement.

NOTE: SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE—WATCH YOUR EMAILS FOR ANY UPDATES!

Saturday, December 7

- 9:00 - open
- 10:00 - Judy Stevens - "Gardening Green"
- 11:00 - Judy Stevens - "Grandma's Vintage Garden"
- 12:00 - open
- 1:00 - open
- 2:00 - open
- 3:00 - open
- 4:00 - open

Tuesday, December 10 (location has changed; this will be in the big conference room)

- 5:00 - Steve Bartlett - "Koi Ponds at Home"
- 6:00 - Jay McWherter - "Tropicals"
- 7:00 - Jay McWherter - "Hosta Companions"
- 8:00 - Lynne Brokaw - "Zen Gardens"

Saturday, December 14

- 9:00 - Karen Woeste - "Container Gardening"
- 10:00 - Mike Anderson - "What's Wrong with My Tree?"
- 11:00 - Karla McGrail - "Weed ID"
- 12:00 - Cindy Fagan - "Public Gardens of Iowa"
- 1:00 - Sandy Holterhouse - "Plant, Food and Nutrient Synergies"
- 2:00 - Diane Wiesenfeld - "Gentle Yoga for Gardeners"
- 3:00 - Diane Wiesenfeld - "Gardening for Good Health"
- 4:00 - open

Thursday, December 19

- 5:00 - Linda Hinzman - "Prairie Gardening"
- 6:00 - Lisa Hinzman Howard - "Veggies 101"
- 7:00 - Lisa Hinzman Howard - "Cheap Tricks"
- 8:00 - Peggy Pearson - "Small Space Gardening"

Saturday, December 21

- 9:00 - Doug Smith - "Care and Maintenance of Garden Tools"
- 10:00 - Carol Elliott - "Garden Art and Accents"
- 11:00 - Larry Edwards - "Life and Times of a Japanese Beetle"
- 12:00 - Larry Edwards - "African Violets"
- 1:00 - Sam Krumholz and Deanna Thursby - "Gardening with Children"
- 2:00 - Judy Bemer - "A Taste of Herbs"

Master Gardeners Mourn Loss of Long Time Volunteer— Viola Koster

By Beth Roof

Viola was a member of the early classes of Master Gardeners in Linn County...the second class in 1983! She possessed an amazing amount of garden knowledge having managed the garden center at Bezdek's (formally at the corner of First Ave. and Blairs Ferry Road, NE) for thirty years.

Viola was a regular lead on the Hortline. She had no nonsense manner and always brought a thermo of coffee along with a briefcase of her own references when she worked the phones. She was another of those early Master Gardeners who laid the foundation for the Program we have today.

Her obituary may be found at: <https://www.cedarmemorial.com/Obituary/2019/Nov/Viola-Koster/>



*Viola Koster
(09/15/25-
11/03/19)*

Please Welcome the Class of 2019!



Sue Astley lives in Mt. Vernon and has been gardening since the 1980's. For the past three years her focus has been planting milkweed and nectar plants and raising monarchs from eggs found around her yard. Sue is interested in volunteering on the Hortline and at the Winter Gardening Fair and in the future, would like to design a workshop that she could present.



Lisa Buckman took an interest in growing her own produce a few years ago when she built her own raised garden bed. She now has an ambitious future garden planned with four beds, trellises, grow bags, containers, rain barrels, a soaker hose irrigation system, pallet design and lightening. A recent volunteer with Feed Iowa First, Lisa wishes to gain a better understanding of food insecurity in our community.



Pat Cargin learned of the Program through her Master Gardener neighbor, Doris Hardt. As a past juvenile residential treatment program worker, she enjoyed introducing the kids to gardening and the different types of plants and flowers and the kids were great learners. Pat finds a great deal of peace in her garden, keeping it weed (and deer) free, smelling the flowers and enjoying the seasonal changes.



Roger Cruz and his wife moved to Cedar Rapids from Houston about three years ago and loves Iowa's change in seasons. Roger has a large backyard with several garden spots and a pond that he designed. In the MG Program, he looks forward to learning new plants and how to grow them in a zone not as familiar to him, as well as have the opportunity to volunteer and meet Iowans.



Joni Fassler lives in Cedar Rapids and learned of the Program through the Winter Gardening Fair. She has been gardening on her one-acre home for 34 years where she loves to grow perennials. She has also planned out her own landscaping. Joni is interested in learning more chemical free ways of gardening and being able to pass this knowledge on to others in the community.



Diana Flander is from Cedar Rapids and learned of the MG Program through Facebook posts and meeting other Master Gardeners. She has been gardening for many years but is interested in gaining more experience and training which in turn, would enable her to lead and instruct in the community. Through other volunteer opportunities, Diana realized her passion for helping and working with others.



Janice Friebele learned of the Program through an informational sheet distributed at a Noelridge Easter Showcase/ Open House. She considers herself a beginner gardener and has always enjoyed houseplants, trees and being outside observing nature. Janice and her family have learned the need to support the Monarch habitat and been able to observe the complete lifecycle in her own backyard.



Christine Goodsmith has been gardening since she was six years old. Christine and her husband have an organic vegetable/herb garden and they do a lot of drying or freezing to save the harvest for use during the year. She would love to get more of her neighbors and others involved in gardening and share how rewarding it is, along with good exercise and a way to beautify the neighborhood.



Mark Goodsmith is a retired Rockwell engineer who has been a home gardener for over 40 years. He has a desire to learn and is anxious to share his training and gardening and landscape experiences with the community. Mark is looking forward to participating in a number of MG projects and in particular, he is very interested in volunteering at Lowe Park with its close proximity to his home.



April Harris Helfter is a Kirkwood marketing student who is new to gardening. She enjoys being outside and growing produce/herbs and is interested in learning as much as she can to pass on her knowledge. April has worked with a lot of children in past volunteer opportunities and is looking forward to participating in the children based projects that the Master Gardener Program has to offer.



Amber Mullen is a mother of seven children who believes in backyard homesteads as the new suburbia, recently converting two-thirds of her backyard to garden space. Amber considers herself an earth advocate who is interested in learning as much as possible from nature and how things happen naturally and organically. She feels this is not only healthier for humans but for our planet as well.



Beth Weeks lives in Cedar Rapids and learned of the Master Gardener Program at one of the recent Winter Gardening Fairs. Before being employed full time, she had a vegetable garden but her interests have turned more toward flower beds and container gardens in the past several years. Beth is now preparing for retirement and looking forward to more gardening time.



Sandra Whitters was raised on a large acreage where she learned to can/preserve most of the vegetables and fruits that her family grew. After sitting in an office all day, Sandra finds "digging in the dirt" a form of relaxation. As a Master Gardener who plans to retire in a couple of years, she is looking forward to devoting more time learning about new plants, processes and techniques being used today.

Coordinator Comments

By: Jean Wilson



Hello, MGs, and welcome to winter –

This is our slow time of the year for committees and events, but we still have a few things going on. We decided to offer two of the workshops from the Hands On for the Holiday event (which was canceled) at Lowe Park in December. We had the materials for the workshops, so it seemed to make sense to go ahead and schedule them as two separate events at Lowe, in addition to the Holiday Arrangements workshop they already have scheduled.

Speaking of Lowe Park: you got the emails from me about the possibility of building on an expansion space at the greenhouse. I appreciate all the feedback we've gotten about the project. There are a lot of moving parts to a project of this size and if we proceed, many groups will need to be involved, not just the Master Gardeners. So it's important that we understand any concerns you have and any problems you see, and also to know the positive aspects to this that you foresee.

Rest up in December so you'll have plenty of energy for the Winter Garden Fair in February. We're at a new location, the Kirkwood Regional Center on Boyson Road. It's a great location and facility and I think we'll be happy there. You'll be getting requests from me to volunteer soon, so get ready.

And it's that time of year when I'll be nagging you to turn in your hours. It's not just important for you, so you can remain active in the program. It's also important for our office because we turn in statistics to Iowa State about all of our volunteers (Master Gardeners, 4-H, and other programs). That can help us when it comes time to apply for grants, to produce press releases about our work and our successes, and also help us evaluate our programming.

I produce a report every January 1 that has the details about the hours you enter. That's the report I use as my blueprint for determining awards, figuring out who continues in the program, and all those other pesky administrative details. So please get your hours entered by December 31 so I can get organized for next year!

And speaking of anniversaries – I've been here a year. I know, I can't believe it either. I started on December 5 last year. The time has sure flown by and now that I know what I'm doing, I hope I won't make as many mistakes next year. Keep your fingers crossed!

November 5, 2019 – Steering Committee Minutes—DRAFT

The meeting was called to order and roll called.

Present: Lynn Brokaw, Diane Brooks, Julie Clemens, Randy Dusil, Linda Hofmeister, Jan Knott, Cindy Lehman, Sam Krumbholz, Jackie MacLaren, Kay McWhinney, Deb Walser, Bev Whitmore and Diane Wiesenfeld.

Absent: Kathy Carew (excused). **Also Attending:** Jean Wilson, RaeAnn Gordon and Mike Anderson

Minutes from the Oct. 1, 2019 meeting were approved

RaeAnn and Mike joined the meeting to engage discussion and help affirm and clarify the Steering Committee's role regarding fiscal procedure. The SC will continue to approve budgets for the upcoming fiscal years as requested by project chairs. Expenditures and individual transactions are thereafter approved by chairpersons and staff and not monitored, scrutinized or approved by the Steering Committee except periodic review to determine that overall budget is on track and adequate to meet the project mission.

A motion was entered and approved 10-3 to review current budget status reports on a quarterly basis.

A motion was entered and approved unanimously to amend the 2021 Budget Proposal to add line items for \$27,000 for Spend Down Account and \$20,000 for Winter Garden Fair Reserve as protection should the event ever be cancelled but cost obligations remain. In addition it was agreed that the Spend Down account would be the only line item for which spending requests would be brought to the Steering Committee for approval.

Coordinator report:

The Architect has issued a report regarding the Lowe Park Head House addition to the greenhouse. The next step will be distribution to the entire membership for information on the potential project as conceived detailing its benefits to the program and community in order that all members have the opportunity for discussion and feedback.

The Winter Garden Fair registration is now on-line and promotions and marketing efforts will begin in December.

The Hands On Holiday classes had to be cancelled due to lower than expected registrations. Discussion is ongoing to determine if some of the classes still could be offered separately at Lowe.

A survey will be generated and distributed to the membership at the end of the year asking for feedback on projects individuals participated in to monitor successes and or areas of improvement.

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Old Business:

A ballot was distributed and vote taken on nominees to fill vacancies on the committee beginning January 1. The following members were elected to join the Steering Committee membership: Jennifer Reed, Rose Blank, Barb Neal and Tracie Hansen. These individuals will be invited as guests to the December meeting as orientation and introduction with terms starting In January.

Quarterly project reports were distributed electronically and will be on the agenda for next meeting.

Budget requests for 2021 were distributed and amended per discussion above.

Project Chair Responsibility template was distributed.

Steering Committee Responsibilities were distributed. These will be amended to add fiscal role discussed above and entered into the program Procedure Guide.

Review of the Family Caregivers Center pilot project was tabled until the next meeting

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday December 3, 2019, 6:30 pm:
Small Conference Room

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Dusil

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