

Germinator



Vol. 30, No. 2 Editors: Julie Stark/Kathy Hughes

February 2020

LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EVENTS

Steering Committee Meeting

Held remotely via Zoom
February 4 • 6:30 pm

Extension Council Meeting

Extension Office
February 10 • 5:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting

Extension Office
February 17 • 3:00 pm

Winter Gardening Fair Volunteer Coordination Mtg.

Kirkwood Regional Center
February 10 • 5:30 pm
Winter Gardening Fair
Kirkwood Regional Center
February 15 • 8:30 am—4:00 pm

Spring 2020 Library Talks

Marion Public Library
February 4, 11, 18 & 25 • 6:30 pm
Fairfax Library
February 6, 13, 20 & 27 • 6:30 pm

Winter Gardening Fair is Almost Here!!

By Julie Clemens and Bev Witmer, Co-Chairs

The 18th annual Winter Gardening Fair is less than a month away! The event will be held on Saturday, February 15, 2020 in a new location—Kirkwood Regional Center, 1770 Boyson Rd., Hiawatha, IA.

There are plenty of volunteer opportunities and it's a good way to get started on your MG hours for the year! Jean Wilson, our MG Coordinator, has previously sent out the volunteer form. You may fill out the form and send it to Jean by email or drop it off at the Extension

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Office. Bev Witmer and Julie Clemens will be sending out an email to all volunteers with your assignments for the day.

The tuition for the day has been lowered \$49!! Tuition includes a choice of five classes from over 70 choices, 30+ horticultural related society displays and vendors plus a baked-potato buffet lunch.

This is a great way to assist the public, spread the good word on how awesome the Linn County Master Gardener's are and have a good time in the process!

Thanks to everyone for your assistance!

Low Park Greenhouse

By Phil Pfister

Somewhat reminiscent of last year, we started winter off fairly mild, and then cold and snow descended upon us. If you would like a little break without leaving the area, please join us at the Lowe Park Greenhouse. We have a lot growing, and more to come. It's pretty warm inside, smells so good with all the plants growing, and there is generally some lively and interesting conversation going on.

We have activities such as seeding, transplanting, propagating by cuttings, designing arrangements and planters, and other activities, every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:00 to noon. We have a lot of prep to get everything ready for sales at the Winter Gardening Fair, Charlene Woeste Plant Sale, demonstration gardens at Lowe Park, donation of plants to community gardens and some schools, and plants for the raised beds around the greenhouse that are used for produce donation to food pantries.

To complete all this, we will be adding Thursday evening sessions from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. soon. Please join us if you can. We provide training, maybe a chance for you to try something new, and activities that will certainly help get you in the mood for spring.

You don't need to call in advance, just stop in for as little or as much time as works for you. Everyone is welcome.



Master Gardeners, Joan West, Linda Hayward and Mary Mikkola during a Tuesday morning work session.



The greenhouse is showing a lot of green on such a bitterly cold January morning!

New location for the WMT IHeart Outdoor Living Show

By Sue Usher

Volunteers are needed on Friday, March 6th; Saturday, March 7th and Sunday, March 8th at the former Younkers space at Lindale Mall. The hours and details have not yet been put in place but WMT is looking forward to our participation.

This event is a great way to get in your 2020 volunteer hours while working with other Master Gardeners to staff our booth, answer gardening questions and share publications. Presenters are also needed to give classes during this show. The WMT IHeart Outdoor Living Show is unique from most of our other events as we interact with a different demographic of our community who are generally unaware of our activities.

Please email or call if you would like to help: Barb Wing (319-310-2677; barley92@hotmail.com) or Sue Usher (319-366-5820; dsajusher@juno.com).

Community Outreach Gardens Project Needs YOU!

By Beula Dvorak

The 2020 growing season is shaping up to provide lots of opportunities for MGs as we continue to provide education/support to our nearly 20 partner gardens. The following are just a few of the needs we have coming up:

- Provide gardening education to children – at Tanager Place, Old McDonalds Farm, Mt. Vernon Wellness Center, with the possibility of additional places if we have sufficient number of people.
- Provide gardening education/mentorship to adults at any of our partner gardens.
- Become a Garden Lead at one of the gardens --- be the communication liaison between the MG Community Outreach Garden Committee and the partner garden as to what types of support is needed.



If you would like to receive any more information on any of the above opportunities, or the Community Outreach Gardens Project in general, please contact either Beula Dvorak or Jane Schildroth. We will find a spot within this project to fit your interests, skills, and time availability.

THANK YOU in advance for considering this opportunity!

Volunteers Needed—Lowe Park Demo Gardens

Calling all Master Gardeners with an interest in the Lowe Park Demo Gardens. If you would like to be involved in some of the planning of the Demo Gardens join us for coffee and conversation.

We're looking for people that would like to share responsibilities for one of the individual gardens and assist with some small projects. Maybe you enjoy the design and planting phase, maybe your schedule only allows for infrequent times that you can engage, or just a one-time project. There is a role for everyone.



Lowe Park Butterfly Image Garden

Everyone is welcome to attend an informational meeting on Saturday morning, February 29th at 9:00 in the large conference room at the Extension Office. To RSVP and for questions contact Brenda Garbe (319-361-8517; bbgarbe@hotmail.com).

Winter Webinar—March 5

By Linda Hayward

The below presentations will be Thursday, March 5, 2019 be at the Extension Office, 383 Collins Road NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa in the large conference room from 6:30 – 8:30. Each webinar is 1 hour. The Webinars will be open to Master Gardeners and the public. All webcasts count toward Master Gardener continuing education hours.

Bring Kids in the Garden (6:30-7:30)

State Master Gardener Coordinator Susan DeBlieck wants adults to help get youth outdoors. She will share ideas for Master Gardener volunteer project sites and landscape design tips.

Iowa's Botanists (7:30-8:30)

Love native plants? Deborah Lewis is the curator of the Ada Hayden Herbarium. She will present on early Iowa botanists, introduce the herbarium, and share her favorite native plants.

It is important to register so if there are handouts, they will available. To register, call the Linn County Extension by calling (319) 377-9839 or by email jorah@iastate.edu. Or, watch for an on-line link to register that Jean Wilson will send out by mid-February.

Spring 2020 Library Talks

Attention all Master Gardeners! Get a jump on your 2020 educational hour requirement by attending one or more of the below library talks.

For a description of each of the presentations, you may go to <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/news/spring-library-talks> and click on the "Click here for a description of each talk" located at the top of the page.



Note: April Library Talks will be listed in the March Germinator issue!

FEBRUARY

Marion Public Library

1095 6th Avenue, Marion

All talks are Tuesdays starting at 6:30 pm

February 4: Spring Garden Maintenance—Wil Carew

February 11: Connect, Grow, Share a Row—Jane Schildroth

February 18: Meditation, Healing & Stress Relieving Gardens—Judy Stevens

February 25: Plant Superfoods and Food Synergies—Sandra Holterhaus

Fairfax Library

313 Vanderbilt Street, Fairfax

All talks are Thursdays starting at 6:30 pm

February 6: Seed Starting at Home—Phil Pfister

February 13: Viva Viburnums—Wil Carew

February 20: Perennials in 2020—Deb Walser

February 27: Why Gardens Change—Wanda Lunn

MARCH

Mt. Vernon (Cole Library)

Located on Cornell College Campus

Library Lane, Mt. Vernon

All talks are Mondays starting at 6:30 pm

March 2: Cutting Gardens—Chrissy Littler

March 9: Houseplant Care—Rose Milden

March 16: Heavenly Hydrangeas—Wil Carew

March 23: Quilt Gardens—Beula Dvorak

March 30: Life and Times of a Japanese Beetle—Larry Edwards

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Coggon Public Library

216 E. Main Street, Coggon

All talks are Tuesdays starting at 6:30 pm

March 3: Bees, Birds, Bats and Butterflies...oh my!—Lisa Hinzman Howard

March 10: Heavenly Hydrangeas—Wil Carew

March 17: Perennials in 2020—Deb Walser

March 24: Life and Times of a Japanese Beetle—Larry Edwards

Swisher Community Library

72 2nd Street, SE, Swisher

All talks are Tuesdays starting at 6:30 pm

March 3: Native Bee House—Karla McGrail

March 10: Straw Bale Gardening—Barb Wing

March 17: Gentle Yoga for Gardeners—Diane Wiesenfeld

March 24: Micro Prairie Gardening—Linda Hinzman

Central City Public Library

137 N. 4th Street, Central City

All talks are Thursdays starting at 6:30 pm

March 5: Weed ID—Karla McGrail/Fran Potratz

March 12: Urban Gardening—Karelyn Pohl

March 19: Native Bee Houses—Karla McGrail

March 26: Creating Black Gold Compost—Wil Carew

Springville Memorial Library

264 Broadway Street, Springville

All talks are Thursdays starting at 6:30 pm

March 5: Beginning Vegetable Gardening—Diane Wiesenfeld

March 12: Weaving Plant Collections into Your Garden—Wanda Lunn

March 19: Build, then Grow in a Hoop House—Phil Pfister

March 26: Plan a Salsa Garden—Deb Walser

Coordinator Comments

By: Jean Wilson



Well, it's February so you know what that means – Winter Gardening Fair! Thank you to all who have volunteered to help. We need each and every one of you. Remember, you can count your volunteer time as volunteer hours, but you can't count the WGF as education hours unless you are attending it (and not volunteering). No double dipping! Let's all keep our fingers crossed for good weather and clear skies on February 15.

You'll have many educational opportunities coming up. Expert Ed will be having webinars in March and I'll send out email about that soon. The Creative Gardening Series will be on March 31 with Melinda Myers coming to Cedar Rapids for a talk in the evening. We're hoping to have a pre-talk visit with her just for Master Gardeners, so you can meet her and chat with her.

And don't forget our library talks, held in February, March, and April. Check the library website for all the details: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/news/spring-library-talks>. We have a lot of talks and you can count those as education hours if you are not volunteering to help out at the talks. A list of February and March Library Talks are also on pages 4 and 5 of this *Germinator* issue.

If you haven't seen our newly cleaned-out Hort Line room, I invite you to stop by and check it out. We now have room to actually have meetings there if we'd like to, and we've gone through all the books and will be getting updated versions for those volumes that were so badly out of date. A big shout-out goes to everybody who helped get that done, but especially to Fran Potratz who went through every book we had and evaluated it.

That's it for now! I hope to see many of you at the Winter Gardening Fair!

January 7, 2020 – Steering Committee Minutes—DRAFT

The meeting was held via Zoom Conferencing, called to order and roll called.

Present: Rose Blank, Lynne Brokaw, Julie Clemens, Randy Dusil, Tracy Hansen, Cindy Lehman, Jan Knott, Barb Neal, Jennifer Reed, Deb Walser, Bev Whitmore, and Diane Wiesenfeld. **Absent:** Diane Brooks (excused) and Linda Hofmeister (excused). **Also Attending:** Jean Wilson (MG Coordinator)

Minutes from the December 3, 2019 meeting were approved.

To begin the new year all members of the Committee, past and present, were acknowledged in appreciation for serving. In addition, the successful efforts of the MG Coordinator were applauded as her one year anniversary in that capacity has been reached.

The rules under which this Committee conducts business were reviewed and refreshed including: Robert's Rules of Order, attendance, motions, etiquette and focusing on the Master Gardener mission and goals. It was noted that these are public meetings with agenda published and posted welcoming attendance by interested members of the Program.

Discussion With Project Leaders:

NewBo City Market: Leadership changes from both parties have presented challenges in the past but consistency lately has been an improvement. The program is +/- 8 years old. A goal is initiating more classes with planning ongoing. The MG Program will handle adult classes while the 4-H Program will be assisting with youth classes.

Family Caregivers: This new pilot program has been a success and continues to grow and improve. Classes are scheduled through May including houseplants, teacup gardens and seed starting.

Coordinator Report:

The Winter Gardening Fair Committee met at the new venue and planning is mostly finalized. Approximately 150 attendees are currently registered. Volunteer forms have been distributed to the membership and assignments are being made with a volunteer coordination meeting set for 5:30 PM February 10 at the venue.

A lifetime member has moved out of state while desiring to continue involvement locally. After consultation with ISU, procedures were initiated to allow continuation with Linn County Extension going forward.

School Gardens 101 and the Garden Walk planning is ongoing.

A meeting is forthcoming with The Marion City Parks Director to initiate discussion regarding the Lowe Park Greenhouse addition.

Clean-up and organization has been completed in the Hortline room.

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A general review of expenditures and procedures from the General Fund and Spend Down accounts was presented.

A nationally known speaker, Melinda Myers, has been arranged to lecture at the Creative Gardening Series on March 31 at Whipple Auditorium.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday February 4, 2020, 6:30 PM - Via Zoom

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Monday January 27, 2020, 3:00 PM - Via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Dusil

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

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