

Germinator

Vol. 30, No. 1 Editors: Julie Stark/Kathy Hughes

January 2020

LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EVENTS

Steering Committee Meeting

Held remotely via Zoom
January 7 • 6:30 pm

Extension Council Meeting

Extension Office
January 13 • 5:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting

Extension Office
January 27 • 3:00 pm

Winter Garden Fair Previews

Extension Office
January 18
Refer to Full Schedule on Page 4

Low Park Greenhouse Hosted December Events

Holiday Arrangements Workshop

By Phil Pfister

If memory serves me right, this is the seventh year we have held the Holiday Arrangement Workshop. This is starting to look like an annual event. This year 18 people participated in the December 5th event. It's always nice to see familiar faces return to the event, and it's also nice to welcome newcomers.

The participants all created



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beautiful arrangements using an assortment of dried natural and painted plants, evergreens, and an assortment of holiday decorations. The arrangements can be used either indoors or out.

Our thanks to Janelle Brehm for making bows, Diana Christianson and Wanda Ohrt for assisting with painting the materials, Brenda Garbe, Linda Hayward and Julie Quebe for rearranging the greenhouse and setting up the materials and workspaces, and Larry Edwards, Wanda Ohrt and Janelle Brehm for assisting with the workshop and cleanup afterward.



Pine Cone and Bird Seed Wreaths

By Beula Dvorak

Two individual workshops, which were initially part of the "Hands on Holiday" event and which were canceled due to low enrollment, were rescheduled at Lowe Park. On Monday, December 9th, 14 ladies had a fun time making pine cone wreaths. Led by Master Gardeners, Vicki Keegan, Karla McGrail, Sam Krumbholz and Beula Dvorak, the workshop produced a variety of creative wreaths.



Then, on Thursday, December 12th, 8 attendees made bird seed wreaths which they will be able to hang out this winter to feed the birds. This workshop was led by Gloria Johnson-Jackson and Karla McGrail.



Things We Love

“WHY DID MY PLANT DIE?” (A Poem)

by Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

You walked too close. You trod on it You dropped a piece of sod on it. You hoed it down. You weeded it. You planted it the wrong way up. You grew it in a yogurt cup But you forgot to make a hole; The soggy compost took its toll September storm. November drought. It heaved in March, the roots popped out. You watered it with herbicide. You scattered bonemeal far and wide. Attracting local omnivores, Who ate your plant and stayed for more. You left it baking in the sun While you departed at a run To find a spade, perhaps a trowel, Meanwhile the plant threw in the towel. You planted it with crown too high; The soil washed off, that explains why. Too high pH. It hated lime. Alas it needs a gentler climb. You left the root ball wrapped in plastic. You broke the roots. They're not elastic. You walked too close. You trod on it. You dropped a piece of sod on it.	You splashed the plant with mower oil. You should do something to you soil. Too rich. Too poor. Such wretched tilth. You soil is clay. Your soil is filth. Your plant was eaten by a slug. The growing point contained a bug. These aphids are controlled by ants, Who milk the juice, it kills the plants. In early spring your garden's mud. You walked around! That's not much good. With heat and light you hurried it. You worried it. You buried it. The poor plant missed the mountain air; No heat, no summer muggs up there. You overfed it 10-10-10. Forgot to water it again. You hit it sharply with the hose. You used a can without a rose. Perhaps you sprinkled from above. You should have talked to it with love. The nursery mailed it without roots. You killed it with those gardening boots. You waked too close. You trod on it. You dropped a piece of sod on it. (Submitted by Kathy Hughes)
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2020 Spring Awards Banquet Being Planned

Jane Schildroth and Sam Krumbholz recently met with Beth Roof to discuss the 2020 Spring Master Gardener Awards Banquet. The coveted notebook was handed off and a planning meeting is being scheduled for sometime in January. If you would like to help with this fun event, please contact Jane (janepeter4641@gmail.com) or Sam (319-396-7290; samkrumbholz@yahoo.com).

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, January 18

9:00 - Peggy Pearson - "Small Space Gardening"

10:00 - Linda Hinzman - "Prairie Gardening"

11:00 - Lisa Hinzman Howard - "Veggies 101"

12:00 - Lisa Hinzman Howard - "Cheap Tricks"

1:00 - Judy Bemer - "A Taste of Herbs"

2:00 - Judy Bemer - "Butterflies and Herbs"

We hope to see you all come out and support our presenters and get a good start on those educational hours for 2020!

Save The Date—Expert Ed

By Linda Hayward

Jim Durbin will be at the Extension Office Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 pm. Jim is a retired Rockwell employee who has been involved with the Cedar Rapids Audubon since 1989. He also volunteers with the Linn County Conservation Department doing bird classes and studies of species in some parks.

Photography is another interest where he has taken photos of flowers, birds, butterflies, moths and dragonflies. To attract interesting animals to his backyard, he has done a lot of landscaping including ponds. Jim will be sharing his experience of planting trees, bushes and lots of flowers to attract birds and insects. Join Jim for an evening of garden talk to refresh us with new plants to add to our gardens.

The presentation on Thursday, March 19 will be at the Extension Office, 383 Collins Road NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa in the large conference room from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. The presentation will be open to Master Gardeners and the public.

To register call the Linn County Extension (319) 377-9839 or email jorah@iastate.edu

Coordinator Comments

By: Jean Wilson



Hello, MGs:

Well, it's a new year and we have lots of things planned – as usual. And there are a lot of volunteer opportunities for you.

- Library talks start in February and go throughout February, March, and April at different libraries in the county. This year we want to make sure we have at least one volunteer to help the speaker at each talk.
- Winter Gardening Fair is on February 15 at a new location in Hiawatha. The Kirkwood Regional Center is at 1770 Boyson Road and it's going to be a great setting for the day.
- The Creative Gardening Series is on March 31 and this year we'll have one speaker (not the usual 3 speakers we've had in the past). Melinda Myers will be giving a talk that evening, and we hope to have an meet-and-greet with her for MGs beforehand. Stay tuned for more details.
- I'll open applications for Master Gardener training in March, and I'll need to gather an interview committee to help me review applications and plan an open house for those interested in training. I already have 5 or 6 people who want to be on the waiting list, so that's a good sign.
- We'll have our annual Spring Banquet in April, where we get together for food and volunteer award recognitions. The date is TBD, but as soon as I know when it is, I'll let you know so you can mark your calendars.
- The annual Plant Sale will take place on May 9 at the American Legion in Marion. We'll be setting up on May 8 and hopefully we'll have a big crowd like we've had in the past.
- School Gardens 101 will take place during the week of June 8 (exact dates to be decided, depending on school closures and weather advisories that affect public schools).
- The Garden Walk will be on July 11 at Lowe Park. We're not going to different locations, but we're going to focus on the individual horticultural areas at Lowe, with talks in the garden and demonstrations.
- Training will start in August. I'm hoping to share training duties with the Benton County folks, so I'll be working on organizing that.

I'll be sending out a call for volunteers at all of these events as well as for help setting up, planning, and dismantling after the events. So watch your email for something from me starting in January – we need your help to make it all a success!

December 3, 2019 – Steering Committee Minutes—DRAFT

The meeting was called to order and roll called.

Present: Lynne Brokaw, Diane Brooks, Kathy Carew, Julie Clemens (via remote), Randy Dusil, Linda Hofmeister (via remote), Cindy Lehman, Sam Krumbholz, Kay McWhinney, Deb Walser, and Diane Wiesenfeld. **Absent:** Jan Knott (excused), Jackie MacLaren (excused), and Bev Whitmore (excused). **Also Attending:** Jean Wilson (MG Coordinator), Incoming committee members: Rose Blank, Tracy Hansen, Barb Neal and Jennifer Reed.

Minutes from the November 5, 2019 meeting were approved with corrections in the spelling of Lynne's name and Executive Meeting date which is December 16, 2019.

New committee members, listed above, were introduced and welcomed to the group. The following members who have completed their terms were acknowledged and thanked for their service: Kathy Carew, Sam Krumbholz, Jackie MacLaren and Kay McWhinney.

Coordinator report:

The January and February meetings will be conducted on Zoom Conferencing. Invitations and the link will be e-mailed out just prior to meeting time.

The statewide extension program "Structure For Success" has been completed. There will be 3 models that individual counties will select from for their respective format. The majority of change will be at the county administration and Coordinator level. There is likely to be partnering with other divisions within Linn County Extension. In addition, partnering with other counties is being pursued with regard to training.

A request was received from an intern to start a new project. That individual is being encouraged to enjoy the benefits of involvement with existing MG programming from which to model the drafting of a new program going forward following the internship year.

Three individual trainees have not yet completed their post curriculum assessment and are being reminded of missed requirements and make-ups.

The Lowe Park Greenhouse addition was discussed. Two open informational and input meetings were held with less than desired attendance. A survey will now be sent to the entire membership for the purpose of voting for moving forward to the next step which is discussion with City of Marion Parks Department.

Old Business:

The Third Quarter Project reports that were carried over from last meeting were discussed highlighting any challenges, modifications or improvements

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as noted. End of year quarterly reports will be out in January for continued discussion.

The 2021 Budget Proposal was approved with amendments made from the November meeting.

Revised Steering Committee Responsibilities was distributed.

New Business:

The Family Caregivers Center Project was discussed and approved to continue as a project going forward. (This project was previously approved mid-year as a prototype).

In addition, The Family Caregivers Center project was approved for \$500 additional funding to complete this fiscal year to be taken from the Spend-down account.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday January 7, 2019, 6:30 pm;
Extension Office

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Monday December 16, 2019, 3:00 pm;
Small Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Dusil

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

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