

Germinator



Vol. 30, No. 7 Editors: Julie Stark/Kathy Hughes

July 2020

LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EVENTS

Steering Committee Meeting*

Extension Office
July 7 • 6:30 pm

Extension Council Meeting*

Extension Office
July 13 • 5:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting*

Extension Office
July 20 • 3:00 pm

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

Garden Walk Prep

Lowe Park
July 7 & 9 • 9:00 am

Garden Walk

Lowe Park
July 10 • 4:00-7:00 pm
July 11 • 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Garden Walk in the Park

By Cathy Holub and Tracy Hansen, Co-Chairs

Wow, the Garden Walk, being held this year at Lowe Park, is just around the corner and what a showcase it will be! There has been an unbelievable amount of hard work done by the garden leads, greenhouse helpers and several others, all working around the Covid-19 mask wearing and required social distancing. It looks absolutely amazing. What an accomplishment!

Two separate Walk dates/times have been scheduled to help accommodate with the social distancing, Friday, July 10 (4:00-7:00 pm) and Saturday, July 11 (9:00 am-1:00 pm). MG volunteers will assist in keeping social distancing in force as much as possible. It has been an interesting year for everyone with navigating the pandemic ups and downs.

As co-chairs, we are looking forward to hosting this new and very special venue for this year's Garden Walk. If you haven't been to the Lowe Park Demonstration Gardens, we encourage you to stop out and see this beautiful work of art!

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Master Gardeners Recognized and Banquet Update

By Sam Krumbholz and Jane Schildroth, Co-Chairs

We still hope to have a dinner celebration this fall to gather together and congratulate our Master Gardeners for their past year's accomplishments. We want everyone to feel safe and enjoy the evening. We will begin planning this event as soon as we get the okay to do so, so in the meantime spend your summer planting, weeding, and playing in the dirt!

Below is the list of Master Gardeners who received this year's awards. Congratulations to all!

2019 Master Gardener Awardees

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 Mikkola
Rose Mildren
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
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

Things We Love—Rules of Gathering Herbs

Submitted by Kathy Hughes

Pluck herbs with thy left hand.

Never face into the wind to pluck an herb.

Never glance behind thee.

Never touch herbs with cold iron – iron destroys all ancient magic

Deer horn, bronze, wood, stone-shaped into a knife or sickle can be employed – even gold (the Druids used this) but never iron or steel.

Always address the herb as ye cut it and tell it what ye intend to do with it.

Never let the herb touch the ground once it hath been plucked or its power will leak back into the earth again. Lay it in a basket.

Ideally, wear white linen and no shoes, or no clothes at all, when ye pluck herbs, to show respect for nature. NEVER wear jewelry.

Astrological conditions should be noted – the state of the moon or the relative position of the planets.

Amulet herbs – herbs used as guardians or protectors are best plucked at sunset, midnight or sunrise.

Finally, the earth hath need to be rewarded with some little gift, usually an offering of wine, mead, bread corn or a small coin.

Demonstration Gardens-Volunteers Needed for Garden Walk

By Brenda Garbe

The Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens are looking particularly good, we've been blessed with adequate rain and sunshine so far this year. Since we're nearing the Garden Walk big event it would be great to have extra faces that last week to touch up weeding, sweep walkways and clean up the minor details, all the items that happen during an ordinary Garden Walk home.

Please join us and come out on Tuesday and Thursday July 7 and 9 at 9:00 am to put the finishing touches on our Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens. And then cross your fingers for good weather on Friday and Saturday.



West view of Demonstration Gardens.



East entrance to Demonstration Gardens.

2020 Charlene Woeste Virtual Plant Sale

By Karen Woeste and Phil Pfister , Co-Chairs

The 2020 Charlene Woeste Virtual Plant Sale numbers are in, and we are happy to report that, even though this was a FIRST for all of us, the sale was a success. It was a huge demand on the MG volunteers and our Coordinator, but the sale was well received by our customers.

Following is a breakdown of the sale:

Plants offered for sale that were grown in the greenhouse – 2,233 total plants; 1,530 sold

Donations by MG's (mostly perennials) – 1,302 total plants; 1,232 sold

Total plants available for sale – 3,535; total plants sold – 2,762

Total income - \$9,445

Less fees (10%) owed to ISU - \$944.50

Profit - \$8,500.50 plus another approximate \$300 in after sale sales, that are not reflected in the above numbers.

There are still some expenses left to be accounted for, like the tent and some snacks, but overall, this sale should be considered a success.

How does this compare with previous years? Jean provided the following comparisons:

Year	Total Sales	Sales/Plants from Donations	Sales/Plants from Lowe Park Greenhouse
2019	\$9,462.02	\$6,000/2,000	\$3,344.02/1,660
2018	\$8,135.82	\$5,092.82/1,682	\$3,043.00/1,669

Thank you to all the Master Gardeners who donated plants, the Lowe Park Greenhouse team, and the 44 MG volunteers who worked the plant sale preparation, and who helped with the kitting and customer pickup. It was all very interesting and challenging, but came together very well. Your hard work made this year's plant sale a resounding success.

School Gardens 101

By Sam Krumbholz and Deanna Thursby, Co-Chairs

School Gardens 101 went virtual this month! Deanna Thursby and Sam Krumbholz taught the class to eight teachers via "Zoom". Jean Wilson was our computer expert who helped us navigate through this new experience for all of us.

The teachers picked up their supplies at the office the Friday before the class began. Supplies included a notebook, reference book, plants, soil, plastic shoebox to make a vermicomposting bin, and of course, red worms. The class lasted two and a half days and included the following topics: composting, soil, seeds and planting, garden planning, and harvest to table. We were hoping to have a field trip to Hiawatha School Gardens and Lowe Park using masks and social distancing but the weather had other plans. The rains came in the form of a downpour. We stayed in but were able to show photos of the gardens and invite Cindy Fagan and Phil Pfister via zoom to speak and answer questions.

All participants were very positive about the class and earned one hour of recertification credit. Who says you can't teach "old gardeners" new tricks!

Coordinator Comments

By: Jean Wilson



July is here and that means it's Garden Walk time. This year we're doing something different and I'm glad we decided on this format long before the pandemic. In the past, we've had Garden Walks at different houses, but that just wouldn't work during a pandemic. So now we're going to be at Lowe Park, showing off the Demonstration Gardens there. That's why I've been asking everybody for help there – it's important that we get the gardens in shape so we can show off what we do.

We have a plan to set up signage, directing people to move in a certain direction. That way we hope we won't have crowds and we'll be able to maximize physical distancing. We'll have MGs stationed at various spots to keep traffic moving and to answer any questions people may have.

After the Garden Walk, my next big activity will be training. We have 22 people who are hoping to do training this year. I still haven't heard from ISU about it – a key component of training is the class on campus, and I'm not sure how they'll manage that. I have a tentative plan for handling such a large group (doing in shifts), so I hope we can manage it. I still need to line up a few speakers for the later classes, but overall, I think we're doing okay.

I'm still not sure how we will go forward with events. At this time, we're limited to gatherings of 50 people or less, and I don't know if that will change in the foreseeable future. That means we'll need to be very creative with Winter Gardening Fair and any other events we want for next year. I'll be meeting with planning committees in the next few weeks to discuss that. I'm sure we'll keep busy, one way or another!

June 2, 2020— Steering Committee Meeting—DRAFT
(Remotely via Webex)

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 Walser, Bev Whitmore and Diane Wiesenfeld.

Also Attending: Jean Wilson (MG Coordinator), RaeAnn Gordon (Director) and Karla McGrail. Minutes from the May 5, 2020 meeting were approved.

Linn County Director Report:

RaeAnn presented a report of the draft document for re-opening of the Extension as it applies to staff, volunteers and public to allow insight, input and field questions. The document follows Governor Reynold's proclamation for phased re-opening of the State of Iowa. The Extension Office is currently scheduled to re-open on June 15. The draft will be sent to both ISU and the Extension Council for approval and initiation.

Discussion With Project Leaders:

Planting For Pollinators: Karla reported that the Project is on hold in many regards due to the COVID-19 restrictions. A limited number of webinars and virtual communications and activities have taken place to the extent possible. Support for the monarch bio-tents in the community continues including Lowe Park.

Project Independence: Karla expressed the most dire need is mediation of deteriorating conditions to the sloped landscaping etc. that has taken place over the many years since being established. This requires labor that is difficult for some volunteers. The group brainstormed some ideas to acquire the necessary support and feelers will be put out to try to fill that need. The planting of the beds is underway.

Coordinator Report:

Jean is compiling and rounding up missing Project Descriptions.

23 trainees have applied. Four nights of open houses will be held to screen candidates to keep total numbers to about 6 per night.

The pilot virtual Plant Sale presented some challenges but was a success earning around \$8,500 thanks to the planners, ISU and volunteers.

The status of the Garden Walk is still uncertain. The Lowe building is not intended to be open by that time. Meetings to determine status are ongoing.

The Grant Wood AEA has dictated that the School Gardens 101 will be virtual. Recordings of presentations and printed course materials are being prepared.

A meeting will be held with project leads to brainstorm ideas for future events and activities that may be affected and/or not held given Iowa re-opening restrictions and COVID-19 status.

The National Conference will go virtual this year.

It has been decided the annual Awards Banquet will not be held at this time. A mailing is going out that will include volunteer achievements and awards for 2019.

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The staff will be consumed with preparations for virtual needs of the Linn County Fair allowing 4H, FFA and other youths to exhibit their work. The public has voiced frustration over this format necessitated by COVID-19.

New Business:

A future discussion will take place on how to memorialize and honor Master Gardener Members who have passed away so as to remain consistent going forward.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday July 7, 2020, 6:30 pm via ZOOM

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Monday June 22, 2020, 3:00 pm via ZOOM

Respectfully Submitted, Randy Dusil

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