

Germinator



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June 2019

LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EVENTS

Steering Committee Meeting

Extension Office
June 4 • 6:30 pm

Extension Council Meeting

Extension Office
June 10 • 5:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting

June 17 • 3:00 pm

Winter Garden Fair Mtg.

Extension Office
June 10 • 6:00 pm

Expert Ed

Extension Office
June 18 • 6:30 pm

2019 Charlene Woeste Plant Sale Recap

Co-Chairs: Karen Woeste, Beula Dvorak, Kim Becicka, Wanda Ohrt, and Phil Pfister

The 2019 Charlene Woeste Plant Sale was held on Saturday, May 11, 2019, at the American Legion Post 298, 651 31st St. Marion, Iowa. This was the 19th year the Linn County Master Gardeners have held a plant sale, founded by Linn County Master Gardener Charlene Woeste, and the second year it has been held at the American Legion facility. Our thanks to the Legion for the use of the hall. It is so much easier setting up the plants when they can be received, priced and staged all in the same

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area, and on the same day. And, while the weather wasn't "bad" on Saturday, it was nice to have the plants inside and dry, and that our customers could shop at their leisure without getting cold and wet. We haven't taken a formal count of customers in the past, so we don't have a comparison, but this year we counted 627 shoppers.

The Master Gardeners donated 2010 plants from their gardens, which included sun, shade, hostas, grasses, native plants, houseplants, perennials, and daylilies. The blooming side of the Lowe Park Greenhouse brought 104 arrangements and 922 single plants including baskets, succulent gardens, patio pots and basket gardens, each containing multiple plants. The veggie side brought 634 tomato, pepper, eggplants, and miscellaneous vegetables and herbs. The total of all plants, (MG donation and greenhouse) available for sale was 3,670. Thank you to all the Master Gardeners who donated plants, the Lowe Park Greenhouse team, and the 65 MG volunteers who worked the plant sale. Your hard work made this year's plant sale a resounding success. Thanks also to all who shopped the sale. By the end of the sale, almost everything was sold.



Also special thanks to RaeAnn Gordon, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach County Director, and Extension staff, Janice Savel and Johanna Rahbusch, for their support in making this event such a success.

May in the Community Gardens!

By Beula Dvorak

Battling cool wet weather, work has finally begun in some of the community garden partners, preparing for another growing season. The following is just a sampling. Each month we hope to share some of these happenings as many work in the community gardens to help increase the amount of local fresh produce available through the community food pantries to those who are food insecure.

Hiawatha Gardens --- Cindy Fagan: Compost and other amendments have been added to the raised beds by wonderful volunteers and the students have their planting done! We have added mulch around the beds to keep the weeds and mess down.

It appears that we lost a few perennials in the Pollinator bed over the winter, and we will add more this spring. We do have a GREAT crop of milkweed this spring (finally!) and we are very excited about that!!! We are looking to add some handicap accessible beds this year and edging around the pollinator bed to prevent the grass from encroaching into the bed. Sure would like a little more warmth and sunshine!!

Dept. of Corrections --- Beula Dvorak: After a rain delay and schedule changes, the gardens finally got prepped and planting occurred. A great group of workers got much work completed in a short amount of time. A special "Thank You" to Vicki Keegan who hauled a trailer load of compost to the gardens. The warm weather crops will be planted soon.

Southeast Linn Community Gardens --- Beula Dvorak: After a successful first year of gardening, this community garden was expanded to nearly double its size. Several people from the Methodist Church in Mt. Vernon assisted with adding compost, peat and perlite to the garden soil in preparation for planting. After several rain delays, some planting finally was completed and more waits to be done as the weather warms and the ground dries.

Several of the Community Garden Partners participated in the United Way Day of Caring again this year as in past year. It provides them an opportunity to get extra working hands and get the gardens prepped for the season. Thanks to those MGs who also participated in one way or another, especially to those who hauled compost to the gardens.

Catherine McAuley Center --- Linda Shepherd: After a week's delay due to cool, rainy weather the UnitedWay Day of Caring 2019 on May 16 at the Catherine McAuley community garden was sunny and warm (photo right). Approximately 20 volunteers, most from Aegon/Transamerica, spent the day sprucing up the CMC gardens which provide healthy produce to the refugee and transitional housing families. The volunteers



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tilled the existing raised bed gardens, weeded, transported and put down compost and provided general cleanup. Additional garden plots were also created, enough for every CMC client who asked to have their own plot.

Olivet --- Jane Schildroth: With a slight “chill delay,” the TransAmerica crew arrived and began to clean off the raised beds (photo right). Mulch was distributed onto paths and as the compost arrived, it too, was distributed into the beds and mixed with Vermiculite. After a lunch break, a bit of planting in flower beds and a tour of the Mission’s Pantry and Clothing Closet, the day wrapped up. Three MG’s provided support and a fourth had arranged for Alliant Energy to provide mulch. A special “Thank You” to Karla McGrail for hauling compost for the gardens.



Horizons --- Karla Goettel: Despite chilly weather, we had a big team at work at Horizons and got a lot of work done. A special “Thank You” to Karla McGrail for hauling compost to the gardens.

Wellington Heights Neighborhood --- Nadine: On a chilly morning 20 volunteers plus 6 members of the Wellington Heights Neighborhood Association moved the last of the raised beds from the New Garden to the Old Garden. More of the paths were laid with brick. The perennial gardens behind Wellington House were mulched and the brick edging and the rock wall were reworked. The elevated beds in the New Garden were dismantled. We will repurpose the wood. The plan for that garden remains as described in the previous paragraph. We want to develop it in the style of the Children’s area at Wickiupp.

SAVE THE DATE-Bus Trip to Central Iowa

By Linda Hinzman

Save the Date for an interesting and fun all day bus trip on Friday, August 9, 2019.

Plans are afoot for a bus trip to Central Iowa to visit the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge (prairie restorations, pollinator exhibits, and more), the Des Moines Botanical Center (guided tour of their newly installed outdoor gardens), and a native plant nursery. Of course, we will have a yummy lunch and stop for dinner on the way back. The cost will be just \$25 per Master Gardener. More details coming when we are ready to have sign-ups.

Community Gardens Outreach Project

By Beula Dvorak

This month we highlight two more of our community garden partners. As always, we invite you to join our project and get involved with one or more of the gardens we work with. There are lots of opportunities to provide support to these gardens and their communities of folks.

Wellington Heights Neighborhood Gardens

The history is too long for this article, but is available to anyone interested in reading it.

The greening projects initially started as a tool to beautify the neighborhood. We evolved into having greening being a community development tool. Greening helped stimulate and heighten awareness of new plants, the natural environment and growing vegetables. The Neighborhood Association formed in 1988.

December 1993: Requested from Linn County a vacant lot at 390- 15th Street. This lot was located in the heart of the neighborhood, in the most violent and troubled area. We wanted to take this lot and turn it into a beautiful garden. This area is now known as the "Original or Old Garden".

2015: New Wellington Garden-A shady corner lot, too small for a house to be built, owned by Affordable Housing Network became the Wellington Heights New Community Garden in 2015. Under the leadership of Jennifer Karma, then Vice President of the Association, planning began for the New Wellington Garden at the corner of 4th Ave. and 15th St. The Committee wanted this garden to be inclusive and welcoming for the entire community. Differently abled gardeners would be accommodated. In 2015, the garden became a master gardener community garden partner. The standing raised beds were built during United Way's Day of Caring in May 2016. Using materials donated by Home Depot and Lowes, the hardscaping, pergola and the rest of the raised beds were built and filled with compost on that day with the help of volunteers from Transamerica. The fence and the pickets, painted by students from the Johnson STEAM Academy under the supervision of the art teacher were installed.



2017: The challenge here is lack of water. We are currently refilling two 50 gallon barrels and watering by hand. This year Diane has been joined by Chelsea DeLarm, Intern Master Gardener. They worked with children

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from Johnson and McKinley and continued their teaching in summer with students from the Kids' Achievement Academy at Jane Boyd.

2018: Because the shade canopy is growing, and we do not have a water source, we have agreed to move that activity to the Original Garden. The children from the Achievement Academy were joined by Children of Promise from Tanager Place during the summer to grow food in the Original Garden.

2019: Work has begun preparing the gardens for the new growing season. The Wellington Heights Garden is part of Feed Iowa First, so produce is donated through them as well as through the Master Gardener program. People at the WH garden are assuming more and more ownership and have transitioned to becoming mostly independent, which is one of the goals of the COG project.

Olivet Mission Gardens

The gardens at Olivet Mission were created in 2012 as an Eagle Scout Project led by Peyton McGuire of Troop 766 of the Hawkeye Area Council of Boy Scouts. They were created to benefit both the Olivet Mission Neighborhood and the Cedar Rapids Community. Each year several garden plots are maintained by the Mission staff and volunteers for produce donations to their local food pantry housed in the Mission. Other plots are "rented" out to individuals in the neighborhood for their individual use.

For several years much of the gardening was done by Don Sanderson, a neighborhood resident and volunteer for the Mission until health made it no longer possible for his involvement. Master Gardeners have been involved for several years now providing education and support to the gardeners as well as providing some youth garden education to nearby students of the Boys & Girls Club of Cedar Rapids. This year a group from Alliant has become involved in helping with the gardening as well.



Creative Gardening Series

By Linda Hinzman and Kathy Hughes

The 2019 Creative Gardening Series occurred in April. Co-chairs were Kathy Hughes, Linda Hinzman, and Julie Stark. Each session was held at the Cedar Rapids Public Library in Whipple Auditorium.

On April 16, Lisa Steinkopf (the self-described "Houseplant Guru") of the Detroit area, spoke to 41 attendees on "The Facts of Light" with regard to houseplants and how lighting affects everything we grow. Ideas were given how adjustments can be made to affect the amount of light a given houseplant gets. General houseplant care was also discussed (photo right).



On April 23, Judy Nauseef, of Iowa City, spoke to 94 attendees on landscape design. The title of her presentation was "Designing Gardens That Draw Us In." Judy is a professional landscape designer and garden writer. In addition to landscape design, she covered how to add native plants to an existing landscape (photo right).



Unfortunately, the April 30 presentation had to be cancelled because of speaker illness. Rita Perea of the Des Moines area was to have presented on "Green Peace: Mindful Practices with Plants." Rita indicated her desire to be considered for the 2020 series.

Expert Ed-June 18

By Linda Hayward

Tree Identification Class - Mike Anderson will lead a Tree Identification class at Noelridge Park on June 18th at 6:30 P.M. We will meet at the parking lot near the greenhouses on the corner of Collins Road and Council Street. Make sure to wear your walking shoes.

To register follow this link – (<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=pbdpynab&oeidk=a07egcfkgvj5d40654f>) or call the Linn County Extension (319) 377- 9839 or email jorah@iastate.edu

"Evening with Master Gardeners" Event

By Bev Whitmore

On May 21st the first monthly "Evening with Master Gardeners" event was held from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Lowe Greenhouse.

Deb Walser presented fun and unique ideas on what to put in your flower pots, beside the usual spikes and geraniums and Judy Stevens presented veggies in pots which peaked the curiosity of our guests. Both Deb and Judy had the full attention of our guests...they were taking pictures of our Master Gardeners' plant displays, asking lots of questions and writing down the ideas presented so they could be creative with their own planting pots at home. Seventeen guests joined us for this very fun and creative, yet very rainy evening!



Seed Ball Workshop

By Karla McGrail

Several dozen people of all ages got muddy making milkweed seed balls at a mini workshop conducted in conjunction with Marion Parks District at Lowe Park on the evening of May 5.

These seed balls are made from a 1:1 mixture of clay (kitty litter) and compost, and just enough water to make it workable. Add a few milkweed seed into a pinch of the mix, form a ball, and if desired it can be decorated with tempera paint. Then let it dry. Voila!



Why would you do this? So you can plant them with a toss! This is handy for seeding milkweed into roadside ditches or other places you might not be able to reach.

Many of the seed balls created that evening were donated to the Marion Parks district and are available free at the desk at Lowe Park. The boy who made the green gloppy snowman seed ball took it home with him, I'm sorry to report.

Coordinator Comments

By: Jean Wilson



Thanks to everyone who helped with the Plant Sale! It was a very busy few days and once again, I think we're all grateful that we had an indoor venue for this event. The weather was cool and rainy, but we were nice and dry inside.

Our volunteers do such an awesome job to get ready for this and it starts weeks (months?) prior to the actual day. Plants arrived from the greenhouse and from individual gardens all day on the Friday prior to the sale and were quickly setup and arranged. On Saturday, the public started arriving early -- around 7:15 I think we saw the first people lining up, even though it was raining lightly. I talked to many people in line and they were in good spirits -- they knew they'd be getting some bargains!

The first hour was chaos, as always, but after that it settled down a bit. Kudos to everyone who helped tally amounts and check out customers, making sure people were on their way as quickly as possible. It's a testament to our volunteers that the entire space was cleaned and we were gone by 12:30.

That wasn't the only MG event that weekend; we had a table at the Noelridge Mother's Day Showcase that Sunday, and the MGs there had a chance to chat with hundreds of visitors and hand out information. What a busy weekend for everyone!

What's coming up? There are a lot of presentations and workshops in June that I'll be telling you about in upcoming emails. We're starting to plan for the Winter Garden Fair at our new location. The Community Outreach Gardens are in full swing. And I'll be gone in mid-June for the International Master Gardeners Conference in Philadelphia. So much to do and so little time!

Enjoy the gardening weather and stay tuned for more details about upcoming events.

May 7, 2019 – Steering Committee Minutes—DRAFT

The meeting was called to order and roll called.

Present: Diane Brooks, Randy Dusil, Kathy Carew, Julie Clemens, Linda Hofmeister, Cindy Lehman, Sam Krumbholz, Jan Knott, Jackie Maclaren (via remote feed), Kay McWhinney, Deb Walser, Bev Whitmore, and Diane Wiesenfeld

Absent but excused: Lynne Brokaw

Also Attending: Jean Wilson

Approval of previous month's Minutes: The minutes for the April 2, 2019 meeting were approved following discussion to continue the recording of Hortline call time info. and for future minutes to include approved funding amounts.

The April Financial Report and Transaction Report were distributed and reviewed.

Coordinator Report:

The Pollinator group that will attend the national conference is in need of a poster/banner the design and printing of which is thought to be around \$100. Formal request will follow once actual cost is tied down.

The Pollinator group received a \$500 award and is pursuing using it for funding of a bus tour open to Master Gardeners. The tour will include Des Moines Botanical Gardens, is tentatively planned for August 9th and will require a per person fee with more information to follow.

A discussion was held to determine if promotional pens should be ordered for handouts at the Garden Walk as has been done in the past. It was decided to use current stock of pens and magnets for this year and revisit overall marketing materials later.

The need for a central marketing effort continues to be discussed at the Extension level to generate a central cohesive branding throughout.

Old Business:

A draft of revisions to the Procedure Guide was reviewed:

- Further refinement and clarification language with regard to scholarships and stipends will be discussed with the MG Stipend committee.
- Clarifications are included for reporting of hours including an emphasis on the deadline beyond which hours will no longer be considered.
- Food handling guidelines are being added.
- Other minor verbiage changes were suggested.

The revised manual is intended to be completed prior to distribution to new trainees.

The Garden Walk budget will stand at the currently listed expense amount of \$1,085. The future budgeted revenue amount will be revisited at new budget time later in the year after evaluating this year's free to the public trial.

New Business:

A budget request for the new Family Caregivers Center Gardening Project was distributed. Following discussion a startup funding of \$1,000 was approved with 2 members abstaining due to project involvement.

The need for a diversity focus was introduced. Barriers toward membership include time available, cost and language. Discussion will be ongoing throughout the Extension on ways to change community perception and enhance a more diverse inclusion.

Motion to Adjourn

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday June 4, 2019, 6:30 pm-Small Conference Room

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Monday May 20, 3:00 pm-Small Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted,
Randy Dusil

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

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