

# Germinator



Vol. 29, No. 10 Editors: Julie Stark/Lisa Slattery

October 2019

## **LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EVENTS**

### ***Steering Committee Meeting***

Extension Office  
October 1 • 6:30 pm

### ***Extension Council Meeting***

Extension Office  
October 14 • 5:00 pm

### ***Executive Committee Meeting***

Extension Office  
October 21 • 3:00 pm

### ***October Library Talks***

6:30-7:30 pm  
Marion Library  
1095 6th Avenue  
October 2, 9, 16 & 23  
Ladd Library  
3750 Williams Blvd. SW  
October 30

### ***Trainee Classes***

Various Locations  
*Refer to Schedule on Page 7*  
October 1, 8, 22 & 29 • 6:00 pm

### ***Old McDonald's Farm Planting Party***

Bever Park  
October 16 • 10:00 am

## **Save the Date— 2019 Fall Celebration**

Be sure to put November 4th at 6:00 pm on your calendar for this year's Master Gardener Fall Celebration at Lowe Park.

The evening's events include welcoming our new trainees to the program and graduating the current interns to Master Gardener status. Also part of the night, of course, is great food and camaraderie amongst your fellow Master Gardeners!

Watch your email for further details!

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## October-November Library Talks

Are you in need of some educational hours for 2019? If so, check out the list below for upcoming library talks! All talks are 6:30-7:30 p.m.

### **Marion Library 1095 6th Avenue**

October 2: *Select, Plant, Tend, Harvest and Enjoy Small Fruits* (Phil Pfister): Iowa soils and climate support many varieties of small fruits. This session will look at some of the more popular fruits in Iowa, how to care for them and maximize their yield, how to deal with pests and the weather, and how to preserve the "fruits" of your labor. Phil will also look at some of the many ways small fruits can be incorporated into the landscape and container gardens.

October 9: *Viva Viburnums* (Wil Carew): "Flowers in spring, rainbow berries they bring, colorful foliage in fall, and that's not all." Learn why you should celebrate 'Viva Viburnums' in your landscape.

October 16: *Choosing True Lilies for your Garden* (Wanda Lunn): Choose True Lilies to add elegant beauty and height to your garden! Lilies can fill your garden with color from the shady May Martagons to exploding Asiatics in July to the towering Trumpets, Orientpets and Aurelians into August. Also learn about the newest bulbs.

October 23: *Alliums are The Art & Soul of Spring and Summer* (Deb Walser): I love Alliums!!! Flowering onions are rabbit- rodent- and deer-resistant, and are seldom affected by disease. Bees, butterflies and pollinators love them. Allium extend the spring flowering season with bold, dramatic color and statuesque garden architecture.

### **Ladd Library 3750 Williams Blvd SW**

October 30: *Gardening Folklore* (Judy Stevens): Ancient civilizations up to modern times have planted and propagated seeds and plants. Many superstitions and myths were passed from generation to generation. This fun class will explore folklore and myths associated with gardening. Join us for learning about these non-Iowa State approved gardening methods.

November 6: *Bulbs for Spring & Summer Garden Beauty* (Beula Dvorak): This is everything you wanted to know about growing bulbs in your garden. Which ones are perennials? Which ones have to be planted each spring and then dug up and stored? When do you plant bulbs? How do you plant them? Which are the best bulbs to grow here? How do you overwinter flower bulbs. All of these questions will be answered!

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November 13: *Don't Pitch It!* (Chrissy Littler): Every year, you plop down a good chunk of change to spruce up those spring and summer flower beds with a variety of annuals. Did you know some of these can actually be successfully overwintered, saving you big \$\$\$? We'll talk through some common tender perennials that are grown as annuals and the tips/tricks to bringing them back to life in the New Year!

November 20: *Plan a Salsa Garden* (Deb Walser): What plants can we grow to make a salsa garden? Which tomatoes, which peppers and other garden grown produce goes into growing a salsa garden? We'll learn the tricks of when, where and how to plant a salsa garden and see plans that make it easy to grow.

### **Your Downsizing Cast-Offs are Needed!**

Are you downsizing and purging out dishes and glassware? If so, we can use it for next year's Winter Garden Fair hands-on class.

We need dishes (dinner, salad, dessert in china pottery or glass), vases large & small in glass and pottery, and glasses (any kind, any color). We would also love mismatched bowls, platters, teapots, cups and knick-knacks.

If you have something to donate, please bring your goodies to the Hort room. Anything we don't use will be donated to charity. So clean out and help out!

# Low Park Happenings 2019

*By Brenda Garbe*

Low Park on the northern edge of Marion is the largest Greenhouse and Demonstration gardens, built and maintained by the Linn County Master Gardeners. Located at 4500 N 10th St, Marion, we invite you to stop out and learn about all our activities.

Built in 2010 the Greenhouse, headed by Phil Pfister, is an educational facility with seeding, planting, propagation opportunities for the MG demonstration gardens, the annual plant sale, city of Marion Parks and Community Outreach Gardens. The building is also used for school, scout groups and adult education classes.



Immediately north of the greenhouse a new pergola was built this year, check out the hops growing on the back side.

Adjacent to the Greenhouse is our compost demonstration bins to education the public in the benefit and process of composting maintained by Ann Tiedt and Randy Dusil.

Community Outreach Gardens immediately to the south and east of the greenhouse were planted in raised beds. Popular vegetables such as tomato, peppers and eggplants are harvested weekly and donated to the Marion Food Pantry this year by Sue Murphy and Wanda Ohrt.

The perennial nursery to the south of the greenhouse was established in 2018 to nurture and store perennials short term, with the intent to divide and sell them at the May plant sale. It was recently expanded, and deer proofed, a pet project of Karen Woeste and Wanda Ohrt.

This is the first year of our Monarch tent at Low Park. Headed up by Julie Clemons this spring, she worked with the Monarch Research Project (MRP) in setting up our milkweed plot/tent. Over 200 milkweed plants were planted in the plot. MRP's mission is to restore pollinator habitat while re-establishing the Monarch population. On July 27<sup>th</sup> MRP gave us 53 caterpillars plus 40 more a week later which we placed inside the tent. Over the next few weeks the caterpillars have progressed from larvae stage (caterpillars) to pupa stage (chrysalis) eventually to a Monarch butterfly. As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 60 Monarchs have been released (35 females, 25 males). With 28 chrysalises to go! There is even one chrysalis on the outside of the tent! To learn more about MRP check out their website [Monarch Zone](#)



Bordering the west entrance of the Marion Arts and Entertainment building are the Demonstration Gardens, where MGs design and maintain 11 gardens for the education and enjoyment of the public including:



All Season/Daylily Garden:

Lead, Jo Ellen Funk; Rose

Garden: Lead, Julie Quebe; Annual Garden (this year planted in the

image of a butterfly): Leads, Jan Knott and Bev Whitmore; Perennials

(including a White garden): Lead, Judi Dolezal; Vegetable Garden: Leads,



Donna McCabe and Doug Smith; Xeric Garden: Lead, Brenda Garbe; Herb Garden: Lead, Paula MacNider; Children's Garden: Leads, Linda Hayward and Brenda Garbe; Birds & Butterfly Pollinator Garden: Lead, Laurie Azeltine; East Entrance Walkway Garden: Lead, Donna McCabe; South Entrance Splash Garden: Leads, Sue Murphy and Wanda Ohrt.

Our Conifer Garden (photo right) to the east of the Marion Parks building entrance was a 2007 addition to the park to showcase the variety of miniature, dwarf and semi-dwarf conifers that can fit in the urban garden. The Conifer Garden was the brainchild of Darrell Hennessy and Devin Deitz.



There are so many more volunteers that help all year long that are not mentioned, but their hours, knowledge and imagination are vital to making this a project Master Gardeners can be proud of. We hope you'll stop by to experience and join us in one of our many projects.

# Hands On Holiday Classes Scheduled

By Sue Usher

The 2019 Holiday season will soon be upon us. Come join us to stimulate your creative juices with our Hands on Holiday Workshop. We will meet in the large conference room of the Linn County Extension office on Saturday, November 2nd from 9:00-4:00.

The following four classes will be offered: Bird Seed Feeders, Christmas Cup and Saucer Fairy Gardens, Pine Cone Wreaths (photo right), and Yule Logs.

Each class will be limited to 20 participants and will have a \$10-\$15 fee with all supplies provided. You may sign up for one class or join us for all four. This will be open to the public so get your registrations in to the office soon.

If you have any questions, contact Sue Usher (319-54-5545; dsajusher@juno.com).



## Event of Local Interest—Educational Hours Opportunity

Dubuque Master Gardeners are presenting "Good Night Garden: Putting your Landscape to Bed." Saturday, October 5 from 7:15-12:00 at the Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Gardens (3800 Arboretum Drive, Dubuque, Iowa).

Workshops will be held rain or shine, so dress accordingly. Register by calling the Dubuque County Extension Office at 563-583-6496. This workshop counts as education hours for all Linn County Master Gardeners.

Additional information may be found at:

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/dubuque/content/fall-workshop>

## 2019 Master Gardener Training Schedule

DATE	TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER(S)	LOCATION
Tuesday, October 1	6:00-7:30 pm	<b>Landscape Design</b>	Shawna Moss and Bob Smith	Extension Office
Tuesday, October 8	6:00-7:30 pm	<b>Fruit Culture</b>	Chris Jensick	Allen's Orchard 5801 10 <sup>th</sup> St. Marion
October 19	On your own	On-Campus at ISU		
Tuesday, October 22	6:00-7:30 pm	<b>Turf, Soil Health, Pesticides</b>	Heather Vasquez, Parks Dept.	Extension Office
Tuesday, October 29	6:00-8:00 pm	<b>Final Class &amp; Wrap Up</b>	Jean Wilson and RaeAnn Gordon, Mentors	Extension Office
Nov 4	6:00 pm	<b>Fall Celebration</b>	RaeAnn Gordon Jean Wilson Steering Cmte. Mentors	Lowe Park

### Planting Party Fun

*By Julie Clemens and Beula Dvorak*

A Planting Party will be held at Old McDonald's Farm in Bever Park on Wednesday morning, October 16, at 10 a.m.

Old McD's had a major renovation and upgrade in the past year, and kids are loving to visit the farm all through the season. The season is closing on October 9, and we thought this would be a good time to upgrade the plantings around the Farm too, for the 2020 season.

Master Gardeners will meet at the entrance to the Farm at Bever Park and please bring your own tools -- some shovels will be needed. We hope you can join us for this season ender combining our love of Community Gardens with Planting for Pollinators.

Please contact Julie Clemens ([julsannie@yahoo.com](mailto:julsannie@yahoo.com)) or Beulah Dvorak ([bdvorak4@aol.com](mailto:bdvorak4@aol.com)) for more information! We'll see you there!

# Coordinator Comments

By: Jean Wilson



It's hard to believe the gardening season is starting to wind down. Just as the growing season wanes, we start planning for next year.

The Winter Garden Fair will be held on February 15 next year at the Kirkwood Regional Center in Hiawatha. This is a new venue for us and I think it'll be a pleasant change for the better. It's a very nice facility and should be much easier to navigate than the buildings on Kirkwood campus. The committee is busy getting planning underway. The classroom schedule has been finalized and we're working now on getting registration set up and other things like publicity, vendors, and catering. Contact Julie Clemens ([julsannie@yahoo.com](mailto:julsannie@yahoo.com)) or Bev Witmer ([peanut024@msn.com](mailto:peanut024@msn.com)) if you'd like to help.

Don't forget our MG Fall Celebration on November 4 at Lowe Park. We'll see our interns graduate to Active MG status and welcome the new trainees into our midst. I'd like all project chairs to attend if they can so they can talk to the trainees and answer any questions. During the classes this year I've tried to emphasize the different projects we have and ways that people can volunteer. I also put together a "Volunteer Calendar" that gives the trainees an idea of what projects get busy when, so they'll know where they can volunteer. I'd like to make sure they all have the chance to try different opportunities.

Keep your eye on your email for upcoming projects where we'll need your help – our Hands On Holiday event in early November, the Garden Walk next year, and more events coming up next year. We need your help to make it all a success.

Jean



## September 10, 2019 – Steering Committee Minutes— DRAFT

The meeting was called to order and roll called.

**Present:** Diane Brooks, Lynne Brokaw, Randy Dusil, Linda Hofmeister, Cindy Lehman, Jan Knott, Sam Krumbholz, Kay McWhinney, Deb Walsler, Bev Whitmore and Diane Wiesenfeld. **Absent:** Kathy Carew, Julie Clemens and Jackie MacLaren (excused). **Also Attending:** RaeAnn Gordon and Jean Wilson

Approval of previous month's minutes: The minutes for the August 6, 2019 meeting were distributed and approved.

The June Financial Report and Transaction Report were distributed and reviewed. The line item for Spenddown will be removed and will be reported separately as it was not included when budgeting for current year was generated.

### **Extension Director Report:**

RaeAnn briefed the group on cultural changes to ISU Extension at all levels: State, Regional and County. Staff has been engaged in joint meetings to provide input and feedback on 2 models that were presented by the State Extension Office. Themes involved include: communication, transparency, partnering among levels, streamlining extension, programming, volunteer development and relevance. While the exact format is yet to be seen, change is inevitable. Timeline is for presenting to staff at the end of October with July 1<sup>st</sup> implementation.

### **Coordinator Report:**

The 5<sup>th</sup> class for trainees is being held tonight at Lowe Park. So far there has been only one absence. One individual is working on makeup for a session missed last fall.

### **Old Business:**

The Garden Walk Committee has proposed a format revision for next year due to difficulty securing garden hosts. Lowe Park has been reserved for July 11 to showcase Demo Gardens, growing operations and various learning sessions. This will again be a no-charge event.

Winter Garden Fair – All classes are set and class schedule is being finalized for brochure deadline. A registration website has been assigned but not yet set up. It is proposed to reduce pricing to \$49 to reach closer to break even since costs have been reduced as well. More advertising will be pursued including the educational community offering a half price student fee.

Revised versions of various templates for project chairs were distributed electronically with minor changes and formatting which were discussed previously. These include duties, reports, descriptions, etc. and will be presented at an upcoming Project Chair meeting.

## **New Business:**

A Budget Committee was established in accordance with the procedure manual. Members will be Cindy Lehman (Chair), Linda Hofmeister, and Jean Wilson. Project budgets will be discussed at next Monday Project Chair meeting.

The following members' 2<sup>nd</sup> terms will expire at the end of the year: Sam Krumbholz, Jackie MacLaren and Kay McWhinney. A Nominating Committee was established to recruit replacement members. That committee includes Deb Walser (Chair), Bev Whitmore and Sam Krumbholz.

The following members have agreed to continue on the Steering Committee for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term and/or complete year 2 of 2<sup>nd</sup> term: Lynne Brokaw, Diane Brooks, Randy Dusil, Kathy Carew, Linda Hofmeister, Jan Knott, Cindy Lehman, Deb Walser, Bev Whitmore and Diane Wiesenfeld (acting as advisor)

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, October 1, 2019, 6:30 PM-Small Conference Room

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Monday, September 23, 2019, 3:00 PM—Small Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Dusil

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Extension and Outreach

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