

Germinator



Vol. 32, No. 5 Editors: Julie Stark/Kathy Hughes

May 2021

LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EVENTS

Steering Committee Meeting*
ZOOM Meeting
May 4 • 6:30 pm

Executive Committee Meeting*
ZOOM Meeting
May 17 • 3:00 pm

Extension Council Meeting*
ZOOM Meeting
May 10 • 5:00 pm

Plant Sale Preparation
American Legion Hall
625 31st St., Marion
May 7 • 8:00 am-4:00 pm

Charlene Woeste Pant Sale
American Legion Hall
625 31st St., Marion
May 8 • 8:00-12:00 am

Monthly Virtual LCMG Social Hour
Zoom—Link Page 6
May 17 • 6:30-7:30 pm

Gary/Judy Stevens Open House
Lowe Park Arts and Events Center
4500 N 10th Street, Marion
May 30 • 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Meetings held via Zoom—Contact the Linn
County Extension Office for link
(319-377-9839)

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Germinator Deadline



All Linn County Master Gardeners are welcome to submit news, volunteer opportunities, stories, pictures, gardening book reviews, etc. for the June Germinator issue by May 21, 2021.

Please send to: Julie Stark
(crgardengal@gmail.com) or
Kathy Hughes
(hughesydoozey@yahoo.com)

New LCMG Coordinator Named—Sandy Rosenberger

Sandy Rosenberger is a lifelong Iowa resident and grew up in Cedar Rapids. She and her husband Dan, settled in Marion where they raised their two daughters, Katie and Sarah. Katie lives in Cedar Rapids and works for The Catherine McAuley Center and Sarah lives in Madison, Wisconsin and works for a small private college.

Most recently, Sandy was Director of Marketing and Volunteers at the local non-profit, Horizons, and prior to that owned a retail shop located in uptown Marion and then in the New Bo District. She currently serves on the Marion Library Board of Trustees.

Sandy has been a lifelong gardener and loves to soak up any information related to gardening. She's never missed a MG spring plant sale and is thrilled to be able to help out with it this year! On weekends her favorite place to be is either in her garden, at a local farmer's market, or up in Wisconsin on the property she and Dan own.

Sandy is thrilled to be serving the Master Gardeners as their coordinator and looks forward to meeting all of the Master Gardeners as well as reaching out to community partners to help educate the public about gardening!



Charlene Woeste Plant Sale – Saturday, 8 May, 2021

By: Chairs Karen Woeste & Phil Pfister

It seems like spring has been slow to arrive, but make no mistake, spring is here! I hope you are all seeing this as well and getting out to divide and pot up plants for the Charlene Woeste Plant Sale on Saturday, 8 May 2021, at the American Legion Hall in Marion. This will be a major fund-raising activity for us most years, but especially this year. All the contributions of plants from MG's will go towards the success of the sale, and will help fund our MG programs.

Earlier this spring we sent out a survey to see who all would be interested in volunteering to help with the plant sale activities and the days leading up to and including the sale. We had a great response. Thanks to all of you who responded. If you didn't respond or were not sure at the time if you could help, please let us know by email if you can help. This is a fun event and educational as well.

We will take donated plants on Friday the 7th, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall. Please have them potted up and labeled as to what they are, and if you can, how they bloom. Pictures are always appreciated. If you have a suggested price, please let us know, otherwise we will price them.

Thanks to all who help with this event. We know from talking to many of our customers that this is an event they look forward to every year. We hope you all can become part of the success of this event, both from contributions and volunteering.

While helping to clean out and share Judy Stevens' gardener presentations, notes, notebooks and articles, her sister-in-law and fellow Master Gardener, Diane Stevens, found the following article. She doesn't know when Judy wrote it or why but felt it was just too precious not to publish in the Germinator. Take a minute this spring to look at and appreciate the shapes in your garden!

May the angels, dear Judy, lead you into paradise...

Things We Love—"I Love Shapes"

By Judith Stevens

Submitted by Diane Stevens

Some gardeners are fascinated by color. Other's fragrance, but my interest is sparked by the shape of a plant or flower. Shapes make us appreciate the diversity of Mother Nature.

Shapes can be used to identify various kinds of trees. The sprawling shape of a 100-year-old oak quickly sets it apart from the drooping form of a weeping willow, yet both are beautiful. The compact pointed profile of a pear tree is not easily confused with the ball shape of an apple tree. In fact, many trees are identified by the shape of the leaves they produce. The white oak leaf has rounded edges while the red oak leaf has pointed edges.

Shapes add interest to your garden. We use tall plants to add height to a flower bed. A 10-foot square flower bed of only day lilies can be beautiful. Now change the shape of the bed to an oval, add a few strategically placed boxwood shrubs or perennial salvias and the interest is sharpened.

Shapes are appreciated even more when observed "close up". Surely everyone has "talked" to a snapdragon by gently squeezing it from the sides of the blossom and looking down its throat. Have you exposed the "lady in the bathtub" on your bleeding heart blossom? Nothing is as intriguing to a child as introducing them to the "rabbit head" of the larkspur blossom. Another children's favorite is creating dolls with the blossoms of a holly hock. All of this is possible due to the shape of a flower blossom.

The seeds of a plant also offer the observer a wide assortment of different shapes. Have you ever compared the seed of a plant to the mature plant and wondered how the seed shape could possibly have any relation to the end product? How could the miniscule seed of a carrot grow into the elongated orange object it is? Ponder the acorn's interesting shape compared to the huge oak tree that produced it. The cone of a conifer may be its seed but certainly doesn't resemble the parent plant. Although both are round in shape, the pea seed is wrinkled and weathered compared to the seed of the four-o'clock.

Play a shape game with yourself to appreciate the shapes of the plants around you. Observe trees that you see every day, maybe in your yard, a friend's yard, or on your route to work, school, or regular meetings. Identify these trees. Are they oaks, maples, or sycamores? Make a note of these types of trees and make a point of observing them again in the dead of winter. Note the rounded upward shape of the maple versus the more sprawling shape of the oak. These details are observed by artists who communicate with the stroke of a brush or pen and convey to us that the winter storm is freezing an old oak tree in a single piece of art.

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Another shape game to play is to visit a friend or acquaintance's yard in winter. Try to identify the types of plants in the yard by shape only. This only works if the friend is not a fastidious fall "cleaner upper". Look at the shape of the trees. Are there a few leaves left lying around to help you with your identification? Can you identify the shrubs? Surely you can identify the barberry. Can you pick out the lilac bush? Did your friend leave the sedum flower heads to capture the puffs of snow?

The old saying goes to "take time to smell the roses". May I add to it by saying "take time to smell the roses but as you bend down to smell it, spend a few more seconds and observe the shape of the flower, the leaf, the stem and even that nasty thorn". Enjoy your search for shapes.

To reminisce and celebrate the lives of Gary and Judy, all Master Gardeners are invited to join their family and friends:

Gary & Judy Stevens Memorial/Open House

Sunday, May 30, 2021
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Lowe Park Arts & Events Center
4500 N 10th St
Marion Iowa

International MG Conference—September 12-17, 2021

The 2021 International Master Gardener Conference will be held virtually September 12-17 and sponsored by the Virginia Extension Master Gardener Program.



The conference will feature five keynote speakers, more than 30 concurrent sessions broken into five different blocks, optional workshops, small group sessions (a great opportunity for networking!), "Search for Excellence" sessions highlighting extraordinary EMG projects, and two special evening events. All sessions will be recorded and available for viewing later.

The cost is \$150 and registration is open now. To check out the schedule and register: <https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/>

Calling all MG's to Help Fight Food Insecurity!

By Beula Dvorak

Did you know.....

- Nearly 1 in 6 children in Linn County don't have enough food to eat.
- People who are food insecure usually are lacking in fresh fruits & vegetables.
- HACAP helps distribute food through 126 food pantries in 7 counties here in Iowa.
- HACAP food pantries distributed 13 million lbs. of food to the food insecure during 2020. That is a 40 percent increase from 2019.
- Master Gardeners throughout the State of Iowa, through the Growing Together Grants the past 5 years, have provided 434,729 lbs. of fresh produce to 66,086 individuals.
- Linn County Master Gardeners, together with our Community partner gardens and individuals have provided nearly 35,000 lbs. of fresh produce, over the past 4 years, to help fight food insecurity.

Targeting food insecurity has become a high priority for ISU Extension and Outreach Linn County due to the dramatic increase of food insecurity in the county during 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Derecho. Our County Director has set a goal to increase our fresh produce donations to HACAP and local food pantries to a total of **30,000 lbs** for the 2021 growing season.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Sign up today to become a Share A Row participant. [Bit.ly/ShareARow](https://bit.ly/ShareARow) is the website to register. You will then receive an ID number and card to print and use at the food pantry each time you make a fresh produce donation. Each donation will be tracked and help us achieve or exceed our goal. A list of top vegetables to grow as well as a list of participating food pantries accepting our donations can be found at www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/Share-a-row.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Meet Your Current Steering Committee

By Linda Hofmeister, Chair

This is the fifth article highlighting members of the Steering Committee and features Cathy Holub and Cindy Lehman. I hope you agree that we have a great group of folks!

Cathy Holub

Cathy was born and raised in Cedar Rapids, IA. She has 2 daughters, 3 grandsons and one granddaughter. She worked in the medical field for about 20 years in Ultrasound.

She has lived out in the country a few miles west of Mt. Vernon for the past 10 years but has always been in the general area of Linn County.

Cathy has been completed the Master Gardener program twice completing the first one in 2002 with Charlene Woeste as her mentor and the second time in 2017.

She became immersed in gardening in 1998. Her yard was small but gave her great opportunities to be creative. She learned as I went, as many of us do, as well as some help from her parents and Deb Walser. Also, like many of us, Cathy was always moving plants around. Plants and nature are at her very core. She thinks they are always amazing and beautiful.

Sherry Baldanado was Cathy's inspiration to join the MG program.

Currently, she is enjoying semi-retirement immensely, working minimally to support some extra joys in life.

Her main gardening interests lie in shrubs, flowers, creating a garden space and some vegetables and herbs. She use old branches and sticks to make trellises. Learning and trying new things are her opportunities for growth and ways to fill her "knowledge bucket" to share.

Cathy has been involved in: Hortline, Lowe Park green house, Garden Walk as co-chair, WMT garden show, Bruce more, NewBo and now the Steering Committee.

Cathy is grateful to be on the Steering Committee. She wanted to get a greater understanding of how the program works, to meet new members as well as contribute what she can.

Cindy Lehman

Cindy grew up in Cedar Rapids and graduated from Washington High School and Iowa State, with a BS Degree in Sociology. She never got a job in her field and ended up working at a Nuclear Power plant in Michigan for 30 years.

In June 2016, she retired, sold her house in Michigan and moved to Marion on September 1st of that year.

She has been married and divorced twice and has one son. He will be 30 in July and he lives in Denver, CO. Cindy has a Pomeranian grand dog that she loves so much that she had to get her own Pom puppy. He will be one year old on April 15 and his name is Snickers. He has kept her from going crazy during this pandemic.



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Cindy has wanted to become a MG for a long time, but never found the time until she retired. Her Mom was a Master Gardener who knew so much about plants. She always had a beautiful yard and many many house plants. She worked the Hortline a lot such that Cindy thought the Hortline was all the MGs did! Her Mom was truly her inspiration for becoming a MG. Unfortunately, her Mom passed away in May 2016.

The house that Cindy purchased was new construction so, landscaping was sod, a tree, and some bushes in the front of the house Other than a little bit of shade provided by the house, everything is in full sun. This has been a challenge for her as her last house had many mature trees that provided lots of shade. Her major challenge has been the soil with about an inch of sand and then clay. Such is the plight of new construction! Since Cindy was starting with a clean slate, she has been trying to plant all purple flowering plants. She also has 7 raised beds for her vegetable garden.

Cindy became a MG in 2017 and has worked the Hortline, Lowe Park greenhouse, the plant sale, the winter garden fair, Steering Committee, and MG Historian.

Her favorite season has always been Summer. However, in the last year or so, she has found that she is unable to tolerate the heat as well. Her favorite conditions are sunny and 72 degrees!

Cindy does work the Hortline, so is in the office frequently. Someone asked her if she might be interested in being the treasurer on the Steering committee and she responded "sure." This is her third year on the Steering Committee.

Mark Your Calendars—Next Virtual MG Meet

Monday, May 17 at 6:30

Host: Becki Lynch

Watch your email for ZOOM details coming soon...

Low Park Rose Garden

By Julie Quebe

Nobody promised me a rose garden, but when I saw that tangled mess of weeds at the West end of the Demonstration gardens at Low Park, I made a promise to the rose garden. Filled with so many wild daisies and various other volunteer plants (a.k.a. weeds), it was the prick of a rose thorn on the back of the hand that told us there was a rose bush buried in there somewhere.

When it comes to roses, it seems there is something for everyone. Our goal at Low Park is to showcase all the varieties. We currently have Hybrid Tea, Hardy Miniatures, Knockouts, Shrub and Buck roses, and climbers. We have single and double blooms, solid colors and multi-colored roses and some change their color during the year. Some of my favorites are; the Yellow Brick Road (a cheery yellow), The Grand Champion shrub rose (the perfect red rose) and Campfire (the double, ever blooming rose with the yellow center and hot pink tips, resembling a flame).

In addition to the roses that bloom at different times from June through September, we are adding some spring bulbs, peonies, yarrow, salvia, lavender and clematis to compliment and provide interest for the rest of the growing year.

In the spring of 2020, the old decaying trellis was removed and a new one added to provide a little shade for the existing bench and a back drop for some new climbing roses (photo right). Unfortunately, the derecho took the new trellis, anchors and all. The good news is we will be able to replace it this year. It should be easier the second time. Right? The William Buffin Climbers and Clematis that were planted at each end are anxiously waiting something to grow onto.



This time of year, when the evenings are staying above freezing, it will be time to remove the winter mulch from around the base of the plants. A mound of compost about 8 to 10" high is placed around the base in late fall to keep the soil at a more consistent temperature and protect the roots. Next the plants will be pruned to remove any winter kill and shaped up to promote new growth.

With weekly watering's, monthly fertilizer, and weeding (always weeding), we will anxiously await the kaleidoscope of color.

Community Outreach Gardens

By Beula Dvorak

The Community Outreach Gardens MG Project (COG) is up and running for the 2021 growing season. I want to update everyone on who our community garden partners are and identify the MG liaison/lead for each garden. I remind us all that MGs do not go into these gardens and do all the work; our mission is to provide education/consultation/support to grow their capacity to garden successfully. Obviously the kind and amount of support provided varies from garden to garden and what their individual needs/wants tend to be.

The liaison/lead is the Master Gardener who communicates with the garden personnel to determine what kinds of support/education they might need/desire. Then need is brought to the Community Outreach Garden Committee Chair to identify how that need might be met. The liaison doesn't necessarily have to provide all the support but work with the committee to get it done.

Catherine McAuley Gardens ----- Chelsea DeLarm & Carrie Nilsson
Olivet Neighborhood Mission ---- Jane Schildroth & Linda Hinzman
Marion Uptown ----- Phil Pfister
Wellington Heights ----- Diane Wiesenfeld & Chelsea DeLarm
Tanager Place Cottage ---- Chelsea DeLarm & Carrie Nilsson
Old McDonalds Farm ---- Beula Dvorak & Sam Krumbholz
Dept. of Corrections ---- Tiffany Miller, Beula Dvorak & Gail Denny
Hiawatha School ---- Cindy Fagan
Horizons --- Dyan Anderson & Beula Dvorak
Southeast Linn Community Center --- Beula Dvorak & Sue Astley
Prairiewoods ---- Phil Pfister & _____
His Hands Ministry ---- Cathy Holub & Beula Dvorak
Lowe Donation Garden ---- Mark & Chris Goodsmith
NewBo Demonstration Garden ---- _____

We will be providing periodic in garden guidance/mentoring/education at Catherine McAuley, Dept. of Corrections, Southeast Linn, Horizons, and His Hands Ministry that I know of now. This usually consists of 1 or 2 times monthly going to the gardens and guiding volunteers through some of the best practices of gardening techniques.

We will be providing garden club for kids' opportunities at Olivet Mission, Tanager Place, Old McDonalds Farm and SE Linn.

Each of these sites participates in our Share-a-Row project where produce is harvested, weighed and documented. Produce is used either in their own dining program or donated to a food pantry, either on site or to HACAP for distribution to others in the area.

So..... how might you get involved..... Any of these opportunities:

- Join a lead team at any of our partner garden sites. We are in need at Downtown Marion and Prairiewoods to co-lead with Phil.



Catherine McAuley garden in its height of production!

- Join our team that will be providing gardening education for kids throughout the summer.
- Assist Mark Goodsmith at the Lowe Donation Gardens, especially with watering and harvesting during the summer.
- Join our team to help provide adult gardening education at any of our garden sites.
- Be a short term consult for Prairie Hills Retirement Center Rooftop Garden which they want to revitalize.

If you are willing to help in any of these ways, please contact Beula Dvorak at bdvorak4@aol.com or 319-895-8206.

"Gardener at a Glance" - Featuring Ann Ghoske

By Beverly Whitmore

Do you remember listening to Tiny Tim singing "Tiptoe through the tulips with me" back in 1968? On April 6th this year, my first Emperor Tulips opened up to a gorgeous burst of yellow! This variety never seems to fail me, they last for several years. I have planted the orange ones in the past, but last fall decided to chance the yellow ones and they did not disappoint me at all. What a cheerful color to enjoy! So this month let's all get to know another new master gardener...I am pleased to introduce to you, Ann Ghoske!



Ann is from Iowa Falls and shares her life with Tucker and Chloe, two dachshunds. She enjoys a small rose garden in her backyard, so when asked what is her favorite flower...you guessed it...roses! She is in her happy season now as she loves spring, as many of us do! She loves when "everything is coming up and budding out to start fresh once again."

When asked what prompted her to apply to the Master Gardener Program, her answer was quite simple, she has a brother in the Master Gardening Program and he suggested she get involved too. One area she particularly enjoys is the design part of gardening. With the Derecho that did so much damage in our local area, Ann will be replanting and redesigning her own yard. She has the time since she is retired.

When I asked if there is a particular MG project, she is looking forward to being a part of, Ann replied she wants to try new areas and see what fits her best. She wants to start her volunteering with the greenhouse projects at Lowe Park and Noelridge.

Please welcome Ann Ghoske!

LCMG Steering Committee Meeting—April 6, 2021

The meeting was called to order and roll called.

Present: Dyan Anderson, Rose Blank, Lynne Brokaw, Diane Brooks, Randy Dusil, Tracy Hansen, Cathy Holub, Linda Hofmeister, Cindy Lehman, Gina Milroy, Barb Neal, Deb Walser and Bev Whitmore. **Absent:** Jennifer Reed (excused). **Also Attending:** Michelle Sillman, RaeAnn Gordon and Johanna Rahbusch.

Minutes from the March 2, 2021 meeting were distributed previously and approved.

Monthly Business:

The financial reports were distributed and discussed. Among items discussed were revisiting the existence of the Spend Down account and the fact that the Lowe Park Greenhouse addition is currently on hold to be revisited post pandemic.

The Judy Stevens Memorial has been recommended by the family as a fruit tree(s) at the Lowe Park Orchard. The family has offered Judy's home office MG related items to the program. Books will be brought to Hort Room and presentations, notes and flash drives will go to Deb for potential program use.

A summary of the 1st quarter project reports received to date was distributed by Linda prior to the meeting and highlights and status of each were discussed.

Bev updated the group on the early success of the Sprout and Share Program that has issued 36 kits supported by video link etc.

The next MG Virtual Meet-up is set for April 12 at 6:30 PM with Becki Lynch as host.

The next Steering Committee Meeting will once again be held via ZOOM and then will resume in person at the Extension Large Conference Room for the June meeting.

Extension Director Update:

RaeAnn informed the group that she has applied for and accepted for the Regional Director position. She will begin in that capacity next week. Advertising and search for a replacement Extension Director will commence ASAP with some time involved for filling the position.

The MG Coordinator candidates have been narrowed to two with final interviews to take place this Thursday. A recommendation will be made on Friday for Extension Council approval at their meeting Monday 4/12.

The COVID recovery strategy will be distributed to the membership soon. The Share-A-Row project to increase food donations is the key component requiring MG's to recruit community assistance. More information will be available on the Extension website including a list of 13 most desired vegetables, HACAAP's most requested vegetables and some multi-cultural vegetable suggestions.

Michelle shared a Plant Sale flier ad that is being finalized which will be made available in the Hort Room soon for MGs to distribute throughout the community.

Larry Dawson will be coordinating with Michelle on the KCRG MG news spot.

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The Diversity Committee will be initiated formally once the new Coordinator is on board.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday May 4 at 6:30 pm Via ZOOM

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Monday April 19 at 3:00 pm Via ZOOM

Next Extension Council Meeting: April 12

Respectfully Submitted, Randy Dusil

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

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