



# At the Garden Gate



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Extension and Outreach

August September  
October 2021

## Master Conservationist training August 26-October 7

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will offer the Iowa Master Conservationist program fall of 2021 in Jasper, Poweshiek, Marion and Mahaska Counties. The program will meet in various sites within the counties to provide the participants with hands-on interaction with the diversity of the state's natural resources.

The program teaches about Iowa's natural ecosystems & the diversity of conservation challenges and opportunities that exist in the region. Graduates of the course learn to make informed choices for leading and educating others to improve conservation in Iowa.

Master Conservationist are individuals who share an interest in the stability of Iowa's natural resources, and in becoming better stewards of Iowa's resources. This program alone will not make a person a "master", but this course is a step in that journey.

The program consists of approximately 12 hours of online curriculum and six in person meetings. The online modules will include lessons and resources by Iowa State subject matter experts to be reviewed at the participants own pace at home or at the ISU Extension and Outreach offices. Module topics include conservation history & science, understanding Iowa ecosystems, implementing conservation practices in human dominated landscapes & developing skills to help educate others about conservation practices.

In person meetings will build on the online sessions and be held 6-9 pm at various sites with Jasper, Poweshiek, Marion, and Mahaska Counties. The session dates and locations are:

- August 26 - Orientation, Red Rock Visitors Center – Marion County
- September 2 - Ashton-Wildwood Park – Jasper County
- September 9 - Quercus Wilderness Area - Mahaska County
- September 16 - Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge – Jasper County
- September 23 - Lake Red Rock – Marion County
- September 30 - Drake Community Library - Poweshiek County
- October 7 - Closing session, Conrad Environmental Research Area – Poweshiek County

Each meeting will be led by local subject matter experts to demonstrate how the principles covered in the online curriculum & play out locally. Participants will work with program partners, who include Iowa DNR, Jasper, Poweshiek, Marion & Mahaska Counties' Conservation, NRCS, & ISU Extension and Outreach, along with educational experts in their fields.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to [www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext)

*"A late summer garden  
has a tranquility found  
no other time of the year."*

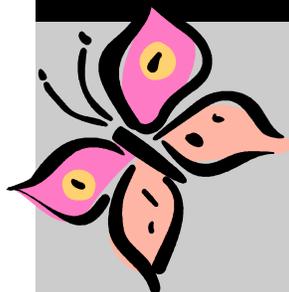
*- William Longgood*

### In this issue:

Master Conservationist training	1
Butterfly Gardening Resources	2
Tomato Fest Returns	2
Master Gardener Meetings	2
Master Gardener Training In-Person Events	2
Master Gardener Booths	2
Iowa State Fair	2
Gardener's Challenge	3
Preserve the Taste of Summer	3
Iowa Nature Series Provides Fresh Look at Iowa Outdoors	3
Publications of Interest	3
Gardening Guide	4
Garden Themed Storywalk®	4
Oskaloosa Farmer's Market	5
Storing Onions	5

*"Why try to explain miracles  
to your kids  
when you can just have them  
plant a garden."*

*~Robert Breault*



## Butterfly Gardening Resources

ENT 54

Five Ways to help the Monarchs

ENT 56 Enhancing Monarch Butterfly Conservation in Iowa

RG 212

Pollinators in the Garden

RG 601

Gardening for Butterflies

RG 603 Iowa Butterfly and Caterpillar Food Preferences

PM 1795 Common Butterflies of Iowa

These publications are available at our office, some are available to download from the *ISUEO online store* <https://store.extension.iastate.edu>.



## Additional Events

Mahaska County Master Gardeners and ISU Extension and Outreach may schedule additional events in horticulture and other program areas (which may be of interest to gardeners) this fall. They will be publicized in local media, email, facebook, as well as our website.

Registration for the course is \$60 per participant. Payment is due at the time of registration. There is limited registration. To register, contact Marion County Extension office; 210 N. Iowa Street; PO Box 409; Knoxville, IA 50138; phone 641- 842-2014; or email Lydia Dingeman, [dingeman@iastate.edu](mailto:dingeman@iastate.edu) Deadline is August 16, 2021.

## Tomato Fest Returns

On **Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 6 pm** we will be learning about tomato seed saving, growing & salsa (not the dance). We will taste heirloom tomatoes. *Attendees with an heirloom variety they wish to share are encouraged to bring a few tomatoes. A minimum of one tomato should be washed and cut into sample size pieces.*

The event is free and open to the public. It will be held by the Lacey garden along the bike trail (south of Bobzillas). If there is inclement weather, the event will be in the Mahaska County Extension Office Auditorium.

## Mahaska County Master Gardeners Meeting

Previously trained Master Gardeners in Mahaska County formed Mahaska County Master Gardeners in 2003. They meet monthly to plan horticulture speakers, events, workshops and activities. Their monthly business meetings will be held on **Tuesday, August 10, September 14, and October 12 at 6 pm.**

## Master Gardener Training In-Person Events

Master Gardener training is being held online this fall and is campus based. However, trainees are invited to in-person county events. These events are in addition to the resource manual and online materials. Mahaska County's events include a Vegetable Garden tour **September 14** at Ken Broadway's garden (contact the office for directions); Weeds identification (and IPM/Pesticides) **September 21** Tree Diseases **October 12** and Composting Basics on **November 9**; held at the Extension office.

These events are also open to all interested gardeners (not just current Master Gardener trainees) and free to attend and will begin after the Master Gardener meeting at approximately **6:30 pm**. Registration is not required it will be appreciated.

## Master Gardener Booths

Mahaska County Master Gardeners will be at Nelson Pioneer Farm's Fall Festival on **Saturday September 18**. We will be located near the herb garden this year!

Mahaska County Master Gardeners and Oskaloosa Trees Forever will team up for the Tree Identification station at Mahaska County Conservation's Youth Outdoor Field Day **Saturday September 25**.

## Iowa State Fair is August 12-22, 2021

During your trip to Des Moines to the Fair, visit the Discovery Garden near the Agriculture Building and view the horticulture completion displays in the 4-H and Agriculture buildings!

## 2021 Mahaska County Garden Challenge

The Mahaska County 4-H Youth Development & Horticulture Programs again offered a Garden Challenge. This challenge was open to any youth in Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade or adults ages 18+; registration is complete for 2021.

Participants were challenged to **Learn** using resources provided by ISU Extension and Outreach and local gardening experts; **Plan** their gardens using some type of grid (by hand or electronically); **Do** – plan, tend to, and take photos of their gardens throughout the growing season; and **Share** what they have learned in a presentation for their chance to win prizes!

Participants are encouraged to use the resources provided by ISU Extension and Outreach and to visit with local gardening professionals. A garden plan needs to be completed and photos must be taken. Before & After photos must be included in the presentation. Finished projects can be a presentation of photos/slides, videos, journals, display boards, etc.

All participants must attend the Garden Challenge Presentation on **Thursday, September 9 at 6:30 pm** at the Mahaska County Extension office. Each participant will be provided with 5-8 minutes for their presentation. Anyone interested may attend the presentations.

Divisions are: Open Children – Current Kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade children; Open Youth – Current 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth and Open Adult – Anyone age 18+. Sub-Divisions are: Vegetable Garden, Flower Garden Garden Types are: In-ground, Container

## Preserve the Taste of Summer

Preserving your own foods can be a lot quicker and easier than you might think. It's a great way to have delicious, local food all year long. An introductory course and four hands-on workshops offer you the opportunity to learn safe food preservation techniques.

ISU Extension and Outreach is offering their food preservation workshops both virtually and in person. Visit their website for more information (some are being held nearby) or to register <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/preserve-taste-summer> The ISU Extension and Outreach food preservation publications can be downloaded from this site.

## Iowa Nature Series Provides a Fresh Look at Iowa's Outdoors

The diversity and breadth of Iowa's natural environment is captured in a new series of publications by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Association of Naturalists.

"Iowa's Nature Series" is a collection of 10 publications covering topics such as landforms and geology, forests, prairies, aquatics, vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, and influential voices for Iowa's nature.

## ISU Extension (ISUE) Publications of Interest

HORT 3093 **Turfgrass Management Calendar: Kentucky Bluegrass Lawn**

HORT 3021 **Fall Tips to Ensure a Healthy Green Yard in the Spring**

PD 54 **Tomato Disease and Disorders**

PM 534 **Planting and Harvesting Times for Garden Vegetables**

PM 666 **Weed Management in the Home Garden**

PM 683 **Composting Yard Waste**

PM 820 **Garden Soil Management**

PM 1932 **Drought Tolerant Annuals and Perennials**

PM 1966 **The Garden Guide to Midwest Annuals and Perennials**

PM 2036 **Ticks and Tick Borne Disease in Iowa**

PM 2086 **Growing Organic Vegetables in Iowa**

PSEP 58 **Understand Pesticide Labels**

PSEP 59 **Home and Garden Pesticide Guidelines**

PSEP 60 **Toxicity of Common Lawn, Garden & Ornamental Pesticides in Iowa**

SUL 14 **Hosta Disease and Pests**

SUL 12 **Using Mulches in Managed Landscapes**

*These publications (as well as many others) are available to purchase at the Extension office or at the ISUEO online store <https://store.extension.iastate.edu>. Many of ISUEO publications are available for download at the same site.*

## Gardening Guide

### August

- Harvest and dry herbs for later use
- Harvest onions when the tops fall over and turn brown
- Sow lettuce and spinach seeds for fall harvest
- Check out the vegetable and fruit displays at the fair
- Freeze or can excess garden produce
- Harvest potatoes when tops are dead
- Harvest and air dry celosia, globe amaranth and strawflowers
- Sow grass seed

### September

- Protect young trees from antler rubbing with stakes/posts
- Stop fertilizing houseplants
- Purchase spring flowering bulbs
- Fertilize the lawn
- Check houseplants for insects before bringing indoors
- Pot up tulips, daffodils and hyacinths to force indoors
- Divide or transplant peonies
- Visit and buy apples from local orchard

### October

- Harvest Sweet potatoes
- Dig dahlias and cannas after a killing frost
- Take a drive to northeast Iowa to view the colorful fall foliage
- Harvest pumpkins and winter squash
- Apply broadleaf herbicides to lawn
- Rake and compost fallen leaves
- Continue to mow lawn until the grass stops growing

*These items are from the 2021 ISU Extension and Outreach Garden Calendar.*

If you want more information about any of the Mahaska County Extension horticulture events or have horticulture questions, please contact Suzette Striegel, Mahaska County Extension Horticulturist by phone 641-673-5841 or email [striegel@iastate.edu](mailto:striegel@iastate.edu).



The publications are educational and feature color photography, original artwork, and creative designs.

The series is an update to similar publications that were produced about 20 years ago, with a focus on making them digitally accessible and accurate to date.

“We set out to honor the spirit of this historical series and make each publication digitally accessible, modernly accurate, and aesthetically pleasing,” said Adam Janke, assistant professor in natural resources ecology and management and extension wildlife specialist at Iowa State University.

About 35 authors and a half-dozen designers contributed to this effort. The result is a “one-stop shop” for educational material about Iowa’s nature, with each publication available for free download from the ISU Extension Store. Each original map and graphic developed for the project is also available for free download and use in educational applications.

Lily Jensen, one of several members of the Iowa Association of Naturalists who helped author the publications, said she plans to integrate them into her own educational efforts and hopes others will do the same.

“I think this series will serve as a valuable resource to the general public and also provide useful resources for new naturalists and classroom teachers and students,” she said.

The series covers more than just plants, animals and rocks. For those interested in the history of nature in Iowa, the “Influential Voices” article provides biographies of 20 people who helped improve nature and conservation in Iowa.

The “State Symbols” section gives a historical background for symbols such as Iowa’s state flower, state rock, state bird and state tree.

The series was produced with funding from a Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program grant administered through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

## Garden Themed StoryWalk®

Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach in Mahaska County has visited the community libraries and community events to host StoryWalk® this summer.

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and was developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. StoryWalk® was made to promote reading and exercise in both children and adults.

The StoryWalk® program with ISU Extension and Outreach is designed for families to engage in literacy activities while also getting exercise, learning about content areas (STEM, art, social studies), and enjoying the outdoors.

Mahaska County Extension selected the book "Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt" by Kate Messner for the content area and to promote interest in gardening. StoryWalk®, is an opportunity to join family and friends, have lots of fun, create memories, play and learn outdoors! This book is appropriate for preschoolers, and the content will likely interest older children. Activities like Storywalk® can better prepare children for school and meet literacy milestones by building vocabulary skills through reading and conversation.

StoryWalk® has been at the Mahaska County Master Gardener Plant Sale, Art on the Square, the Eddyville Akers Memorial Library, New Sharon Stilwell Library, Oskaloosa Public Library, and the Southern Iowa Fair. It will be scheduled for other community events. For more information on the StoryWalk®, contact the Mahaska County Extension office.

How to participate in the StoryWalk®:

Stroll along and read "Up in the garden and Down in the Dirt" by Kate Messner. (Each page spread of the book will be displayed individually on 23 different yard signs) Each sign will have comments or questions related to the pages. *Note: The walk should take about 20 minutes to complete.*

## Oskaloosa Farmers Market

The Oskaloosa Vendors and Farmer's Market supports entrepreneurial vendors from Mahaska County. Nourishing the community, it offers diverse products including locally-grown produce, season plants and flowers, farm fresh eggs, and fresh baked goods. It is being held across from the courthouse on the east side of the square **Tuesday 3-6 pm and Saturday 8-11 am** ending October 15.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact Deb Draper 641-295-4214, ladyhawk2362@hotmail.com or message through Oskaloosa Vendor and Farmers Market Facebook page.

## Are you Looking for horticulture information on the internet?

You are encouraged to visit <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu>; there you will find ISU Extension and Outreach's Yard and Garden columns, Horticulture and Home Pest news articles, Instagram and Twitter posts, and access to encyclopedia articles, resources, publications, videos and FAQs.

## Storing Onions

After harvesting the onions, dry or cure the onions in a warm, dry, well-ventilated location, such as a shed or garage. Spread out the onions in a single layer on a clean, dry surface. Cure the onions for two to three weeks until the onion tops and necks are thoroughly dry and the outer bulb scales begin to rustle. After the onions are properly cured, cut off the tops about 1 inch above the bulbs. As the onions are topped, discard any that show signs of decay. Use the thick-necked bulbs as soon as possible as they don't store well. *An alternate preparation method is to leave the onion tops untrimmed and braid the dry foliage together.*

Place the cured onions in a mesh bag, old nylon stocking, wire basket or crate. It's important that the storage container allow air to circulate through the onions. Store the onions in a cool, moderately dry location. Storage temperatures should be 32 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The relative humidity should be 65 to 70 percent. Possible storage locations include a basement, cellar or garage. Hang the braided onions from a rafter or ceiling. If storing the onions in an unheated garage, move the onions to an alternate storage site before temperatures drop below 32 F.

...If the storage temperatures are too warm, the onions may sprout. Rotting may be a problem in damp locations. Inspect the stored onions on a regular basis in fall and winter. Discard any that are starting to rot.

Source: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/yard-and-garden-onions-and-garlic>

*A garden is a thing of beauty,  
and a job forever"*

*-Unknown*



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

~Mahaska County Office Staff~

**Suzette Striegel**, Horticulturist

**Amy Brainard**, County Youth Outreach Coordinator

**Sara Martindale**, County 4-H Youth Coordinator

**Lea DeCook**, Office Assistant

**Charles Brown**, Agricultural Economics Specialist

**Cathy Drost**, Human Sciences, Nutrition and  
Wellness Specialist

**Sherry Ford**, Regional Extension  
Education Director

~Office Hours~

Monday—Friday

8:00 am—1 pm, 1:30—4:30 pm

We are on Facebook-

“Like” our pages!



*Mahaska County Master Gardeners*

*Iowa State University Extension  
and Outreach-Mahaska County*

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

## **Mahaska County**

212 North I Street

Oskaloosa IA 52577

Phone: 641-673-5841 Fax: 641-673-0559

[www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska)

