



At the Garden Gate



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

February/March/
April 2020

Mahaska County Master Gardeners

Education Opportunities February-April; More information on pages 2-4

All events to be held at the Mahaska County Extension Office.

Thursday, February 6; 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, & 6:30 pm

Iowa Weather, Master Gardener Webcast

Tuesday, February 11; 6:30 pm Earthworm Casting Speaker; Traci

Dow Wyatt and Michael Wyatt, Central Iowa Organic Fertilizer

Monday, February 17; 6:30 pm

Macramé Plant Hanger Workshop; 4-H 5 pm, public 6:30 pm (\$5 fee)

Thursday, February 20; 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, & 6:30 pm

Bring Kids in the Garden Master Gardener Webcast

Tuesday, February 25; 6:30 pm

Lilies All Summer; Kristi Evans, Iowa Regional Lily Society

Tuesday, March 3; 7 pm Yoga for Gardeners; Veronica Grim

Thursday, March 5; 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, & 6:30 pm

Iowa's Botanists Master Gardener Webcast

Monday, March 9; 6:30 pm Show and Tell and Seed Swap

Tuesday, March 10; 6:30 pm Soil Health/Biology;

Faith Reeves, Sky Factory Farm

Tuesday, March 24; 6:30 pm Herbs; Tim & Jocelyn Engman, Pickle

Creek Farms

Thursday, March 26; 6:30 pm

Container and Patio Gardens and Preparing for the Gardening Season;

Pam Nimtz and Suzette Striegel, Mahaska County Master Gardeners

Tuesday, March 31; 6:30 pm Amazing Fungi of Iowa, Dave Layton,

Prairie State Mushroom Society

Tuesday, April 14; 7 pm All about Asparagus,

Joyce Wilson, Mahaska County Master Gardener

Printing and Postage Costs are Expensive...

...and our office would like to send the newsletter by email whenever possible.

If you receive this newsletter by regular mail, and have an email address that you read regularly; please indicate this to our office by a phone call (641-673-5841), or email (striegel@iastate.edu).

You may also indicate if you wish to be removed from our mailing list (mail or email) OR if you are reading from our website or someone else's copy and would like added to our list.

Weather Announcements

If the weather is inclement or forecast to become inclement during the event, the event will likely be postponed/canceled.

To confirm if an event is being held, please call our office (during office hours), check our Facebook pages (Iowa State University Extension and Outreach -Mahaska County and/or Mahaska County Master Gardeners) or listen to KBOE 104.9 radio weather announcements.

Other Extension Events

ISU Extension and Outreach schedules events in other program areas (which may be of interest to gardeners). They will be publicized in local media, facebook pages as well as our website.

Additional Events

Mahaska County Master Gardeners may schedule additional events. They will be publicized at events, in local media, email, facebook pages and our website.

Sharing Table

Gardeners may bring their extra catalogs and magazines to educational events this spring to share with other gardeners in attendance.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach does not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, pregnancy, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or status as a U.S. veteran, or other protected classes. ISU will make reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity, 515-294-7612, eooffice@iastate.edu. Inquiries regarding requests for accommodation may be directed to extdiversity@iastate.edu. You may also make accommodation requests through this [webform](#). For an explanation of ISU's accommodation processes, please visit our [reasonable accommodation page](#).

Master Gardeners Meetings

Mahaska County Master Gardeners have scheduled these monthly business meetings:

Tuesday, February 11 at 6 pm. It will be followed at 6:30 pm by Earthworm Casting Speaker.

Tuesday, March 10 at 6 pm. It will be followed at 6:30 pm by Soil Health/ Soil Biology speaker.

Tuesday, April 14 at 6 pm. It will be followed at 7 pm by All About Asparagus.



First Friday Coffee Break

Plan to stop by the Mahaska County Extension Office on **Friday, February 7, March 6 and/or April 3 from 9:30-10:30 am;** fill up a cup of coffee and indulge in something tasty!

This time is set aside for those who would like to visit and talk to others about horticulture topics. It will be a perfect time to learn about current topics and upcoming events.



Registration is not required. There is no fee for coffee and treats, please bring your own cup to help reduce waste. If you have questions, call the Mahaska County Extension Office at 641-673-5841.

**We are on Facebook-
"Like" our pages!**



Mahaska County Master Gardeners

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach-Mahaska County

Education Opportunities Information

Unless noted, the events are FREE, open to the public and for anyone wishing to learn about the topic. Prior registration is NOT required, but appreciated. To register please call the Mahaska County Extension office 641-673-5841 or email Suzette Striegel, Mahaska County Extension Horticulturist at striegel@iastate.edu.

Winter Webcast Series

The Mahaska county office of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will host the Master Gardener Winter Webcasts.

Mahaska County will show the webcasts at 10:30 am, 1:30 and 6:30 pm. Webcasts last an hour. **Topics and speakers and dates are:**

February 6; Iowa Weather: With a changing climate, Iowa will be warmer and wetter. State Climatologist Justin Glisan, PhD, from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, will share what people can do to adapt to changing growing conditions.

February 20; Bring Kids in the Garden: State Master Gardener Coordinator Susan DeBlicke wants adults to help get youth outdoors every day. She'll share ideas for Master Gardener volunteer project sites and youth landscape design tips.

March 5; Iowa Botanists Love native plants? Deborah Lewis is the curator of the Ada Hayden Herbarium. Learn about early Iowa botanists, explore the herbarium and Deb's favorite native plants.

Earthworm Casting Speaker

The Mahaska County Master Gardeners are hosting an Earthworm Casting /Vermicomposting (composting by worms) speaker on **Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30 pm.**

Traci Dow-Wyatt and Michael Wyatt are co-owners of Central Iowa Organic Fertilizer, a small family owned and operated business in Indianola, Iowa. They will talk about their operation, which produces OMRI Listed worm castings. They care for about 800,000 worms and produce a cubic yard (about a ton) of castings every three days. Worm castings feed plants, stimulate growth and improve soil while still remaining odor-free and safe for children and pets. They are an organic alternative to synthetic NPK fertilizers. Their product is available direct or at many central Iowa garden suppliers.

Macramé Plant Hanger Workshop

Macramé, the art of knotting rope, is a trend from the 1970s which has been resurrected. Mahaska County Master Gardeners are hosting a macramé plant hanger workshop on **Monday, February 17 at 5:00 pm for 4-Hers and 6:30 pm for the public.** Attendees will make a simple plant hanger to use with a plant and planter to bring color, texture, and life into a space in their home. Plant and planter not included.

Prior registration with payment is required by Noon February 12. Cost is \$5 per person. Thanks to United Way grant funding, the

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

4-H workshop has no fee for Mahaska County 4-Hers. To register please call Mahaska County Extension Office 641-673-5841 or email Suzette Striegel (striegel@iastate.edu). *The fees for service will be used to offset direct expenses and to support the Agriculture and Natural Resources County Extension Program.*

Lilies All Summer Speaker

The Mahaska County Master Gardeners are hosting Kristi Evans, President of the Iowa Regional Lily Society and NALS Lily Judge as a speaker on **Tuesday, February 25 at 6:30 pm**. She will present “Lilies all Summer”. Kristi is from Albia and has grown lilies for many years. She grows many types of lilies, including Asiatic, Orientals, trumpets, tigers and others.

Yoga for Gardeners

Spring is a high-impact time in the garden, yoga can help with the wear and tear caused by repetitive physical activity in the garden. The Mahaska County Master Gardeners are hosting Veronica Grim, as a speaker on **Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00 pm**. She will present “Yoga For Gardeners”.

Veronica has taught Yoga at the Book Vault and YMCA for many years; she is certified through the American Council on Exercise (ACE), has 500 hours as a Registered Yoga Teacher and has been trained through YogaFit. Come learn about the movement and postures of yoga, and learning about a practice to use before and/or after your landscape beautification efforts.

Gardener’s Show and Tell & Seed Swap

Join the Mahaska County Master Gardeners on **Monday, March 9 at 6:30 pm** for Show and Tell. They will be talking about their garden tools/plants-varieties/tips/how-tos/recipes/etc. from the 2019 growing season. The public in attendance is invited to share their items as well! We will also host a Seed Swap **at 7 pm**. It is open to all who are interested. We will provide the small envelopes and pens.

We encourage gardeners to:

- buy a little extra for your tried-and-true varieties; then share some with others. It may become someone else’s favorite!
- go ahead and select something new as you peruse your seed buying sources; including those unique heirloom and organic varieties from various seed companies. Then share some of the extra seeds with others.
- share your saved seed from your heirloom varieties, if you have extra to share!
- bring along any undesired seed you have in your inventory. They may find a new home!

Soil Health/Soil Biology Speaker

Mahaska County Master Gardeners are hosting Faith Reeves, Sky Factory Farm Manager on **Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 pm**. Faith is a certified nutrition farmer from Fairfield. Sky Factory Farm is part sustainable farm, part research project, with an emphasis on sustainability, plant diversity and local food system security. Faith will

(continued on page 4)

ISU Extension & Outreach Publications of Interest

- HORT 3054 **Community Tree Planting and Care Guide**
- HORT 3077 **Early Spring Blooming Perennials**
- IAN 302 **Iowa’s Spring Wildflowers**
- IAN 306 **Iowa’s Mushrooms and Nonflowering Plants**
- PM 212 **Landscape Plants for the Midwest**
- PM 534 **Planting and Harvesting Times for Garden Vegetables**
- PM 607 **Suggested Vegetable Varieties for the Home Garden**
- PM 713 **Indoor Plants**
- PM 780 **Pruning and Training Fruit Trees**
- PM 820 **Garden Soil Management**
- PM 874 **Starting Garden Transplants at Home**
- PM 1204 **Morels, False Morels, and Other Cup Fungi**
- PM 1429f **Power Lines and Trees**
- PM 1942 **Annuals**
- PM 1966 **The Garden Guide to Midwest Annuals and Perennials**
- RG 105 **Garden Tips-Guidelines to Seasonal Chores**
- RG 319 **When to Divide Perennials**
- RG 501 **Pruning Raspberries**
- RG 502 **Pruning Grapes in the Home Garden**
- RG 601 **Gardening For Butterflies and Pollinators**

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

Gardening Guide

February

- Check houseplants for insects; apply insecticidal soap when necessary.
- Order Valentines flowers
- Frequently change the water in vases of cut flowers
- Sow geranium seeds indoors
- Check trees and shrubs for rabbit damage
- Begin pruning fruit trees
- Cut back leggy or overgrown houseplants

March

- Hire an arborist for major tree removal or pruning
- Sow broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower indoors for April planting
- Sow petunia and impatiens seeds indoors for May planting
- Prune grapevines, currants, raspberries and gooseberries
- Remove dead debris from the garden
- Start a compost pile
- Uncover hybrid tea roses and remove dead wood

April

- Incorporate fertilizer into the vegetable garden before planting
- Sow lettuce, carrot, beet and radish seeds in the garden
- Plan a rain garden for your landscape
- Plant potatoes and onions
- Apply crabgrass preventer of lawns when the forsythias are blooming
- Thin lettuce, carrot, beet and radish seedlings
- Remove spent flowers on daffodils and tulips
- Visit public garden for flowering bulb and crabapple displays

These items were taken from the 2020 ISU Extension and Outreach Garden Calendar "Butterflies".



(continued from page 3)

be speaking about soil health, plant health and some tips for growing nutrient dense food.

Pickle Creek Herb Speaker

Mahaska County Master Gardeners are hosting Pickle Creek Herbs, Tim and Jocelyn Engman on **Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 pm.**

Thirteen years ago, they started their organic herb farm in Southeast Iowa. They grow herbs, berries, tomatoes, and garlic which are used to create herb-infused olive oils and vinegars, jams, syrups, soaps, salves, deodorants, and lip balms. Their products are grown and created by them, from seed to store.

The Amazing Fungi of Iowa Speaker

Mahaska County Master Gardeners are hosting Dave Layton, newsletter editor of the Prairie States Mushroom Club (PSMC) on **Tuesday, March 31 at 6:30 pm.**

PSMC was formed in 1983 by Dr. Don Huffman and Dr. Lois Tiffany. It promotes scientific and educational activities related to fungi and foster the appreciation of wild and cultivated mushrooms. They advocate the sustainable use of mushrooms as a resource and endorse responsible mushroom collection that preserve natural areas and their biological diversity.

We'll explore fungal interactions with gardens, lawns and trees and we'll learn of some safe and easy-to-identify tasty edibles as well as some of the dangerous mushrooms to beware of.

Container and Patio Vegetable Garden

Preparing for the Gardening Season

Master Gardener Pam Nimtzt will discuss container and patio vegetable gardening on **Thursday, March 26 at 6:30 pm.** Most of our vegetable crops can do well in containers and still provide an adequate amount of crops. Come and learn tips and techniques! Additionally, Suzette Striegel will discuss tasks you can/could do now to prepare for the gardening season to come.

All About Asparagus

Joyce Wilson, Mahaska County Master Gardener will explain planting, growing and harvesting of this much loved spring vegetable on **Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00 pm.** She will also discuss preparation and preservation.

Why garden at a community garden?

If you would like to vegetable garden and your current living arrangement does not have space with good soil which can be tilled (or space for adequate size containers), with full (6 hours) sun exposure, and access to water—a community garden plot might be for you!

Oskaloosa has three community gardens in which participants can grow their own annual vegetables on their own plots. All three sites, OCS D Glendale Garden, Hope Gardens and William Penn Garden have a full sun site with tilled soil. Each site has differing costs, plot size, arrangements for water and tools, and other limitations.

(Continued on page 5)

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Community gardeners are people from the entire social economic spectrum, irrespective of race, gender, religion or age. Many great things happen in a community garden, including the ability to grow your own vegetables, the satisfaction of getting your hands in the soil, an increase in mental and physical health, and the opportunity to build relationships with neighbors. Reasons to grow your own vegetables in a community garden plot include:

Save money. Gardening is a hobby; while hobbies have expenses in tools and supplies, the result/output has a value that you can eat.

Access to Produce/Eat Better. Gardeners can grow the vegetables they enjoy and consume more per day than if they had to purchase.

Try new tastes. Stores do not carry all varieties and types of vegetables. Also it is usually cheaper to grow a new-to-you vegetable than purchase it at a store.

Increased food security. As gardeners/people grow and preserve their excess food they are reintroduced to traditional food security methods of food security.

Good exercise. Gardening is excellent exercise (can burn 330 calories and hour) and tasks can be adapted for all levels of ability, skill, and interest. Gardening is a physical activity/undercover workout so increase the workload slowly to avoid aches and pains.

Reduce Stress. Gardening is great for mental well-being, self esteem and overall mood.

Nurtured learning. Gardens spur curiosity and learning, providing a real-world classroom to study life sciences. The hands-on learning environment supports research and problem solving. Gardens can also lead to learning in the kitchen as you try out new recipes with your community garden grown foods.

Garden topics are great conversation starters. Among gardeners, conversation flows easily as you talk about the vegetables you are growing, how you prepare/cook it, and how you can handle problems such as insects, diseases, weeds and wildlife.

Learn gardening methods. Growing your garden by yourself can be lonely. At the community garden you're potentially surrounded by people of all levels of gardening abilities-and many are happy to share their experience and knowledge.

Family bonding. Time spent working together in the garden can increase family unity.

Kids learn responsibility. Gardening tasks can be delegated according to age and ability, giving even the littlest members of your family a sense of ownership and competence.

Gardening requires a time commitment; for success pick quick/easy to grow and much loved/long harvesting vegetable crops you enjoy. Relatively quick/easy-to-grow crops include radishes, sugar peas, snap peas, and salad green mixes. Much loved /long harvesting crops include green beans, tomatoes and peppers.

Oskaloosa Community Gardens Kick-Off

Thursday, April 2; 6:30 pm
Mahaska County Extension Office

Learn from our local community garden facilitators about gardening options in Oskaloosa. Sign up for a plot at this event or with the facilitators

Mahaska County Master Gardeners will be there for you to ask your gardening questions.



**Mahaska
County
Master
Gardeners
Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 16*; 8-11 am

Featuring annuals, divided perennials, garden markers, and second time around gardening items.

Proceeds support future activities and speaker fees.

**This is a different weekend than Plant Sale is traditionally held.*

**Iowa One Call
1-800-292-8989
www.iowaonecall.com**

**Call 48 hours
BEFORE YOU DIG!**



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 calling 641-673-5841 or emailing striegel@iastate.edu.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

~Mahaska County Office Staff~

Suzette Striegel, Horticulturist

Amy Brainard, County Youth Coordinator

Ashtin Harris, 4H Youth Program Assistant

Lea DeCook, Office Assistant

Charles Brown, Agriculture Economics Specialist

Sherry Ford, Regional Extension Education Director

~Office Hours~

Monday—Friday

8:00 am—1 pm, 1:30—4:30 pm

Master Gardener Training will be held this fall in Mahaska County

Online Enrollment is due August 1

Tuesday evenings August 25-November 17; 5:30 pm

Class on ISU campus Saturday, October 10.

Cost is \$195; Pro-hort \$550

More information in May-June-July Newsletter.



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Mahaska County Extension

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Oskaloosa IA 52577

