Bee Club Has Field Day at Vanden Broek’s

Back-To-Basics Bee Club held their annual field day at Theo and Master Gardener Eve Vanden Broek’s residence near Pella on May 19th.

The event was well attended and participants enjoyed hands-on learning. Craig Greene, Marion County Extension Council member and long-time bee-keeper, led the group.

Husband and wife each have their own hives; Theo’s are constructed from barn boards and line the south side of the garage; Eve’s are painted pastel colors and are the centerpiece of several of her gardens.

The group first examined one of Theo’s hives—a hive that had just swarmed the week before. (Bees “swarm” for several reasons, but the most common is overcrowding. When they swarm they are dividing the hive in half, taking the queen with them. The remaining worker bees are left to rebuild the hive and make a queen. That’s a whole other story!) Theo was apprehensive about what he would find when he opened the hive but was well pleased with what he saw!

The group also examined one of Eve’s hives then gathered for refreshments and tours of the hundreds of hostas covering many of the Vanden Broek’s shaded gardens.

“The Green Scene” is a tip sheet developed by the Marion County Extension Office to inform people of horticulture events, problems, and interesting ideas. Let us know if you want to be added to our mailing list. Some issues are also available at www.extension.iastate.edu/marion/. This material has been prepared Karen Ackley, Agriculture Program Assistant. If you have questions, please contact the office at (641) 842-2014.
Leaf Casting Workshop!

Come have fun making a multi-purpose garden accessory or house décor bowl. It’s a great project and will complement any garden! There will be two workshops, the first one to make the leaf, the second one to paint it. Bring your own leaf that you want to make into a birdbath or other cast (rhubarb, cabbage, hosta, hollyhock, tree leaves, etc). The workshops will be held on Tuesday, July 19th from 6:00-7:30 PM and Tuesday, July 26th from 6:00-7:30 PM.

We will be making the leaves in the Marion County Extension Office parking lot in Knoxville, 210 N. Iowa St. Pre-registration is required—call Kate or Karen at the Extension Office (641-842-2014) by June 14th. Cost is $10 (which includes paint, sand, and concrete mix). Bigger leaves may cost extra depending on the amount of concrete used.

Spring Workshops a Hit!

Marion County Extension hosted its last Spring Workshop, “Bucket Bowls” on May 19th. Master Gardener Marlys Anderson (with help from Ron Humeston) directed about 20 attendees on how to create pots from papercrete (3 parts shredded newspaper, 2 parts Portland cement—must be Portland!- and 1 part perlite). Participants left with a “bowl” and a smile!

Marion County Photo Contest Deadline is Wednesday, June 13th at noon! Enter today!