Beekeeping classes will be held once again in Marion County in 2015. Craig Greene is the instructor of Beginning Beekeeping classes (for all ages) that will be held Tuesday evenings at the Marion County Extension Office January 13 – February 24, 2015. Craig is a beekeeper from Knoxville with over 50 active hives. He has been a beekeeper since 1998, and has instructed beekeeping classes since 2003.

Beekeeping can be a fascinating hobby, a profitable sideline, or a full-time occupation. You may want to keep bees for the delicious fresh honey they produce, for the benefits of their valuable services as pollinators, or perhaps simply for the enjoyment of learning more about one of nature’s most interesting insects. Almost anyone can keep bees. Honey bees normally only sting to defend themselves or their colony; when colonies are handled properly and precautions are taken, sting- ing is not a major problem. Most beekeepers develop a tolerance for bee venom over time and have reduced sensitivity to pain and swelling. However, the few people who react strongly to bee stings and pollen or who are unable to get over fears of stings should avoid contact with bees.

Because of beekeeping’s interrelationship with agriculture and dependency of growers of several commodities on honey bee pollination, it is much more important than merely the value of the beeswax and honey produced annually.

Beekeeping Classes Begin in January

2015 Beekeeping Classes start January 13, 2015 on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM. There will be seven classes at the Marion County Extension Office location (210 N Iowa Street, Knoxville). No pre-registration is required. For more information call Craig Greene at 641-842-2112. Young people are encouraged to attend. This project is supported in part by Marion County Extension, Mahaska County Extension, and Back to Basics Bee Club.

Is Beekeeping For You?

- Do you enjoy the outdoors and do you enjoy supporting nature?
- Do you enjoy gardening and nurturing plants?
- Do you enjoy woodworking?
- Do you enjoy a biological challenge?
- Do you enjoy talking to people with similar interests?
- Do you enjoy managing a sideline business?
- Do you enjoy participating in a historical craft?

If you can answer yes to most of these questions, beekeeping is for you!
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 by Karen Ackley, Agriculture Program Assistant and Master Gardener Coordinator. If you have questions, please contact the office at (641) 842-2014.

Sincerely,

Dale R. Miller,
County Extension Program Director

November Checklist

- Finish planting tulips.
- Dig your canna and other tender bulbs. Dry them for a week or so by putting them in a single layer on newspapers covering your garage floor. Store them in a cool dark place for the winter.
- Clean up all the disease and insect-infested foliage and fruit from the garden and orchard to prevent further spread next year.
- Place wire netting or other protectors around young fruit trees in sections where rabbits and mice abound.
- There is still time to move or set out deciduous trees and shrubs. It's late for evergreens.
- Don't allow the lawn to go into winter with too much top growth. Two inches is plenty; more might be injurious by killing the roots and being difficult to mow in the spring.

2015 Calendars Now Available

The 2015 calendars are now here! The Marion County Calendar features winning photos from around Marion County taken by amateur photographers. Chase Carter's Best of Show photo serves as the cover. Other featured photographs include those by Andrew Pealer, Shana Bruns, Jenny Petersen, Jeff Saltzman, Tatjana De Socio, Carole Rowland, Carol Mapes, Genni Heffron, and Payton Smith. Just $5.

This year's ISU calendar captures the sense of playfulness found in many gardens. Take a whimsical journey through the seasons in photography, verse, and quippy garden quotes. $6.

Finally, stop by for your FREE pocket calendar, compliments of Marion County Extension!

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