Fungus Among Us...

Cool, moist weather has made it a great year to enjoy the proliferation of mushrooms. It is really fun to see all the colors and different types of mushrooms and fungi. Marla Mertz, Marion County Naturalist, snapped these photos during the past few weeks.

What we call mushrooms are reproductive organs of certain types of fungi. Fungi are a kingdom of organisms such as molds, mushrooms and yeasts that are totally different from plants and animals. Study of fungi is called mycology, which is a part of botany, though scientists have proved that fungi are closer to animals than plants as they do not depend upon photosynthesis to make their food and grow in dark, damp areas.

Fungi reproduce by means of spores and never produce flowers or seeds. They also lack true stems and leaves and do not have a vascular system like that of true plants.

The fleshy fungi are found in a variety of colors, shapes, sizes, and environments. These fungi include the mushrooms which typically have the characteristic cap, stalk, and spore-producing gills. Some mushrooms and other fungi are edible, while others may be deadly poisonous if eaten.

Take time to get out and enjoy the fungus among us! Or visit our photo gallery at www.extension.iastate.edu/marion/yard-gardenhorticulture for more “fun” guys!!

Left to right: Dead Man’s Fingers, Antler, and the Jack-o-Lantern mushroom (poisonous!)
**Things to Do...**

- **October 5**—**Farm Crawl**, open house from 11 am—5 pm at seven farms. Visit Blue Gate Farm, Coyote Run Farm, Crooked Gap Farm, Pierce’s Pumpkin Patch, Reichert’s Dairy Air, Schneider Orchards, and White Breast Pottery and Weaving. Go to [www.farmercrawl.com](http://www.farmercrawl.com) for more details.
- **October 9**—ISU’s Extension Program Specialist Richard Jauron will speak on **Herbaceous Perennials** at Mahaska County Extension office 6:30-9:30.
- **October 11**—**Scarecrow Contest**, Pierce’s Pumpkin Patch, 9 am—2 pm. Look right for details.
- **October 11—12**; **Pumpkin Festival**, Pierce’s Pumpkin Patch; numerous crafters will set up outdoor booths for this weekend event! No admission charge. Caramel apples, antique tractors, gas engines, oats threshing, bitter-sweet, and country store with half price costumes and fall and Halloween décor!
- **October 13**—**Women Caring for the Land**, 8:30 am—3:00 pm; Women who own or manage farmland in Poweshiek and surrounding counties are invited to participate in a free conservation discussion focused on soil health; United Methodist Church, 916 5th Ave., Grinnell, IA.

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**2015 Marion County Calendar**

The 2015 Marion County Calendar just arrived. It 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, the calendar is a perfect stocking stuffer or grab-bag gift.

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“In 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/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/marion/). This material has been prepared Karen Askley, 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