Sherri's View from the Garden

To celebrate the harvest of July, here are three of my favorite summer recipes from three of my favorite people:

**Matt’s Pesto**
1 1/2 cups firmly packed basil
1/2 cup parsley
1/4 cup pine nuts, walnuts or pecans
1/2 cup parmesan or romano cheese
1-2 cloves garlic
1/4 tsp. salt
1/3 cup olive oil

Blend all ingredients except oil in a food processor or blender until like paste. With machine running, add oil and process until the consistency of butter. Serve over pasta, or with bread or crackers. Pesto may be frozen.

**Geri’s Tomato Tart**
1 unbaked pie crust
1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
5 roma or other small tomatoes- it is nice to have a mix of red and yellow!
3/4 cup loosely packed basil
1 clove garlic, minced
1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese
1/2 cup mayonnaise

Press pastry into a tart pan. Partially bake in a 375* oven for 5-7 minutes or until pastry is slightly dry. Immediately sprinkle with 1/2 cup mozzarella. Cut tomatoes into wedges or slices and drain on paper towels. Arrange over cheese. Coarsely chop basil. Mix basil, garlic, remaining mozzarella, mayo and parmesan. Spread over tomatoes. Bake for 25 minutes or until cheese is golden.

**Jean’s Herb-flecked Shortbread Cookies**
2 cups flour
1 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup powdered sugar
About 1-2 tsp. crumbled lavender florets and leaves finely-chopped OR 1 tsp. finely-grated lemon zest and 1 tsp. crumbled thyme leaves
Coarse sugar

Cream butter; add powdered sugar and mix well. Stir lavender or lemon and thyme into flour; add to butter mixture. Shape dough into two logs about 1 1/2” in diameter; roll in coarse sugar. Wrap logs in waxed paper and chill for several hours. Cut into 1/4” slices; bake on ungreased cookie sheets at 400* for about 10 minutes or until just starting to turn light brown around edges. (Be careful- they can turn too dark quickly!) The cookies are best after being stored 1-2 days in an airtight container.

"A fruit is a vegetable with looks and money. Plus, if you let fruit rot, it turns into wine, something brussel sprouts never do." P.J. O’ROURKE

*Have a wonderful July!* Sherri Soich, Steering Committee Chair sherrisoich@gmail.com or 515-710-5665.
Art Show

Call for Artists for 2016 All-Iowa Master Gardener's Art Show

Be part of the fifth annual Master Gardener's Art Show. Entering the show is open to all Iowa Master Gardeners. The exhibition will be held at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, beginning with a reception on Thursday, August 18, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Applications are being accepted now through August 1, 2016. Entries must have a horticultural, floriculture, or gardening theme and must have been completed within the last 3 years. In addition to Best of Category designation, selected art work will be exhibited at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden's North Gallery from August 19 through October 16. Free standing art pieces may be entered in the Art Show, but it is not possible to display free standing objects in the North Gallery; these entries will be represented in a photo collage. Selections for art to be hung in the gallery will be based on Botanical Garden criteria for exhibits and selection will be part of the judging process.

Awards will be presented at the Art Show Reception open to the public, friends, and family at the Botanical Garden's Swartz and Walsh rooms on Thursday, August 18, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

If not selected to hang in the North Gallery, art needs to be picked up August 18, 7:00 p.m. at the Botanical Garden. If selected to be hung in the North Gallery, art needs to be picked up on October 17.

Categories
Drawing, Painting, Photography, Mixed Media, Fiber/Leather/Basketry, Ceramic, Metal, Glass, and Repurposed for Garden Art.

If an individual artist wishes to apply in more than one category, a separate application will need to be submitted for each piece of art work. Up to 3 entries can be made per category. Mail completed application(s) to Pat Reeves by August 1, 2016. Questions - contact Pat at patriciareeves2@gmail.com

Please check out the categories and enter the Art Show. The application is at this link. Please bring your friends and family to the Art Show Reception. Some pieces will be for sale.

Pat Reeves, Art Show chair

Do you use Facebook?
If so, please check the various PCMG project Facebook pages regularly and "like" them so you can share news of upcoming events with those who see your posts. Once on Facebook, search for Polk County Master Gardeners, PCMG Garden Tour, Polk County Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale, Discovery Garden - Polk County Master Gardeners, Demonstration Garden, Polk County Master Gardener Greenhouse, Enabling Garden, and PCMG Demonstration Garden.

Iowa State University
Extension and Outreach

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.
Bus Trips 2016

We only have a few seats left - sign up now for the trip to Minneapolis!

The registration form for the Minneapolis trip is on the Polk County Master Gardener website. The trip dates are July 22 to July 24th. On our last visit to Minneapolis, many of us fell in love with Tangletown Gardens nursery and the owners' fabulous private gardens. For the July visit, we will be joining the Tangletown Gardens' Garden and Art Tour. This is an annual event featuring some of the Twin Cities' best private gardens and local art. What a great opportunity to see some very cool private gardens with local art work on display in the gardens! We have also scheduled time to shop at the fabulous Tangletown Gardens, as well as Bachman's - one of the twin cities larger retail nursery centers. We can't go to Minneapolis without spending some time at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. With 1,137 acres of natural areas and public garden areas it is hard to see everything this garden has to offer in one visit. Please see the registration form for more details on the trip.

Laurie Barrick, BARRICK8792@msn.com

Change Coming

It hasn't exactly been a secret but now it's time to tell all of you. I will be retiring Sept. 7. Director Andrea Nelson will be posting a job description on the Polk County Extension web page and taking applications for this part time position soon. As a Master Gardener, I do plan to attend the Harvest Celebration on October 20 since I've promised several of last fall's class members that I'd be there to see them get their certificates and badges.

Mary Farlow

Demonstration Garden

THANK YOU (that's a big thank you) to everyone who helped get the garden ready for the PCMG garden tour. The relentless heat in recent weeks presented a daunting challenge to keep young plants from drying out and keep the sun-loving weeds at bay. Our hats are off to our watering team, and to everyone else who grabbed a hose, helped pull weeds, or pitched in to spiff things up. Your efforts paid off and the garden looked great for visitors on the tour.

Upcoming events include our "How Does a Garden Grow?" series of classes, which are underway on Thursday nights at 7 pm. Our annual Open House will take place Thursday, July 14, starting at 6 pm. Regular work nights will continue on Mondays throughout the season.

And finally, in the words of Eric Clapton, "Let it rain, let it rain, let it rain, rain, rain."

Co-Chairs, Ruth Doxon, Sandie Sydnes, and Diane Ackerman
Directory Updates

Carolyn Magnani now resides at 5449 Prairie Parkway, Johnston, IA 50131

Discovery Garden

The gardens are starting to grow and should be looking great for the Iowa State Fair, hopefully we will get enough rain to keep the flowers happy and blooming. The renovations are almost complete, the gazebo is still a work in progress, but should be completed within the next two weeks. If you have not been out to see all of the new upgrades, we invite you to come and visit, we think you will like it.

Signup for shifts for the fair begin on July 5th. Contact Jean Roe at ljroe@q.com or 515 205 8706 or 515 279 8705.

Our next educational event will be Wednesday, July 13th, at six pm. Jackie Comito will be addressing water quality, which goes along with our new pathway and it's role with nutrient reduction and water runoff.

Have a safe and happy Fourth.

Co-Chairs:
Dean Brand drbrand@mediacombb.net tel:515-360-0774, Jean Roe ljroe@q.com tel:515.205.8706

Patrick Schmitt schmittpatrickj@gmail.com tel:515.279.9645,
Cheree Tilton tiltoncm@gmail.com tel:515.262.0488

Enabling Garden

Our Season of Learning at the Enabling Garden continues this month with our children's program: Wanted Small Hands Artist, on Tuesday, July 19th between 6:00 - 8:00 PM. It will feature our creative leaders for this talk Master Gardeners, Gary and Marlene Olson. They, along with several other talented master gardeners will be helping children to showcase their creativity with easy artistic projects! Please bring your kids and join us for this fun hands-on "talk." There is no charge for this event.

Tai Chi in the Garden continues on select Saturdays during the summer months provided by Bill Goshorn. Please join us at 10:00 am on the following Saturdays: July 2nd and August 6th. This gentle exercise is open to folks of all abilities so bring a bottle of water and friends to get your weekend started with stretching, strengthening and relaxation. The class is free, but we are always accepting donations to fund projects in the garden.

Our regular work nights at the Enabling Garden are on Tuesdays, so plan to join us starting at 5:00 PM, weather permitting. Please join us for fun, food and fellowship in the garden. Thanks again to all of our volunteers that help to make the garden beautiful.

EG Co-Chairs: Sandie Hamilton, Paula Winslow, Christine Barker & Sharon Schoonover.
Master Gardeners staffed the PCMG Farmers' Market Booth on Saturday, June 18, marking our second appearance this year at the Downtown Des Moines Farmers' Market. Our featured topic was "Roses."

As in May, we had close to 300 visitors to the booth and answered lots of gardening questions. We continued our free seed packet giveaway (thanks, Greenhouse gang!), which remained quite popular.

We'll be at the Market again on the third Saturdays of July, August, and September. Please visit our Booth (the SW corner of Third and Court) and feel free to suggest a special gardening topic for us to feature. We're always open to ideas for future Market appearances!

Matt Dore, FM Co-chair (matt.dore@drake.edu)

Community Information

ANNUAL WATER GARDEN TOUR SET FOR JULY 16TH

Central Iowa Water Garden Association (CIWGA) and the Story County Master Gardeners will have its 21st Annual Water Garden Tour on Saturday, July 16 from 9 a.m. til 4 p.m.

This year's tour "Plants, Ponds, Paradise" will feature 11 amazing water gardens, one featuring a million gallon pond. All of these Ames area ponds are works of art and showcase owners' talents as gardeners, koi owners and water feature enthusiasts who are eager to share their hard work. The Tour goes on rain or shine and proceeds are used to provide water features for non-profits around Central Iowa. Tickets are $10 (kids 5 and under are free) and can be purchased at Garden Number 1 1071 X Avenue, Boone; Garden Number 5 Skycrest Gardens, 243 Dave Circle, Ames; and Garden Number 11 at 202 Duea Circle, Roland. For additional information, please contact 515-291-2670 anicam2000@aol.com

Want to Trade?

Marnie Stein has a large amount of pale yellow and lavender Siberian iris that she would like to trade for other colors. The yellow ones smell like lemon. You could contact her at 515-306-3043 or by email at marniestein@msn.com if you are interested.

It's in the news again

It's the time of year for wild parsnip to bloom and it's is extremely irritating.

http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/2005/7-13/wildparsnip.html
Chair Katherine Howsare wants to express her gratitude to the gardeners who shared their yards with us: Ruth Doxon and co-chairs at Demo, Susan Pohl, Tim Goldman at Faith and Grace, Kathy Bennett, Diane Hill, Stef McAdam, Carol Grant and Dennis Zaabel. And of course their families and friends who helped and listened.

Big thanks to committee members Mary Farlow for hosting, Matt Dore for hosting and creating tickets and arranging online sales; Jan Jordan for coordinating volunteers; Rita Perea and Mary Brown Mehalovich for radio and hosting; Sharyn O'Connor-Beener for brochure, poster and hosting; Karen Tandy, Christine McFarland, Ryan Lensing for hosting and committee work; Marilyn Moon and Denise Essman for ticket distribution and committee.

To all the Master Gardeners to volunteered to help with garden preparation and to be in the gardens to greet visitors and answer questions on tour day.

And to everyone who purchased tickets and were so generous with their admiration of all the hard work that goes in to the wonderful gardens.

If you have thoughts about the tour that you would like to share with the committee, please send to Katherine by email (howsarek@live.com) before July 21.

**Garden Tour Committee**

**Education Opportunities**

Lots of opportunities right here in Polk County with talks in each of our gardens and ISU Summer Webinars at the Extension office. If you'd like to print a copy for yourself, click here.