Master Gardeners Raise $$’s for Habitat For Humanity

Marion County Master Gardeners hosted six Knoxville-area gardens open to the general public for their 2011 Garden Tour in early July. Despite the hot weather, nearly $700 was raised for Habitat for Humanity. A check will be presented to the county-wide organization later this month.

Go to www.extension.iastate.edu/marion/news/Garden+Tour.htm for more pictures from the tour.

Karin Graham has a fun garden—complete with even a tea party! Check out the photos online.

Master Gardener Marj Clark collected donations. Love that hat, Marj!

Havv & Connie Sprafka served treats and cold drinks—thanks!

Carolyn Formanek with her veggies! She’s cool as a cucumber☺

Arvilia Bailey surrounded by her beautiful containers.

Bob got a big photo last month!

Melissa Greene telling about her family’s hoop structure and their experiences during their first growing season.
Are Your Hostas Sick? (How to Diagnose)

Last year I hosted a Knoxville Federated Garden Club meeting at my home. We toured the gardens, had refreshments, and held our meeting. As the evening ended, Marlys Anderson returned to my door to point out I had a “sick” hosta. “It’s Hosta Virus X,” she proclaimed. I’d never heard of the disease but Marlys is very active in the hosta world, currently serving as the American Hosta Society Website Advertising Liaison and president of the Russ O’Hara Hosta Society so I knew she spoke with authority. I’ve since learned that Hosta Virus X (HVX) was first identified and described at the University of Minnesota in 1996. Since then, HVX has been found to occur widely in the world where hostas are grown. Infected plants may show blue and green (or unusual) mottling on the foliage or twisting and/or puckering (see photo). Symptoms vary widely and since many hostas are bred for unusual foliage it is often difficult to tell a “sick” hosta from one that’s well. There is valuable information on both the www.rohs.org and www.americanhostasociety.org websites addressing Hosta Virus X.

In addition, kits are now available that enable the home gardener to test his or her suspect plant. Pictured at the left, a sample about the size of a quarter is taken and inserted in a plastic pouch filled with solution. The tester crushes the leaf part in the pouch, waits 30 minutes and then inserts a test strip into the solution.

Plants that test positive should be removed and destroyed. Use bleach to sanitize tools before and after removal—the disease is spread by contaminated gardening utensils. To purchase kits, contact kackley@iastate.edu or call me at the Extension Office at 641-842-2014.

What’s Going On?

August 6 – American Iris Society Region 21 Iris Sale, 9:30 am—2:30 pm, Stoney Creek Inn, 5291 Stoney Creek Ct, Des Moines, IA 50131.

August 23 – Marion County Extension’s Summer Webinar Series “Native Friends and Invading Forces”, 6:30—8:30 pm, Marion County Extension Office. Brought to you by Iowa Master Gardener Program, ISU Extension & Dept. of Ag. Sponsored by de Bloemen Hof. Free.

September 6 (tentative) — Master Gardener Classes Start. Classes will meet weekly (sometimes twice a week) on Tuesday evenings throughout September and October. Postcards will go out next week to those on the waiting list; contact Karen at kackley@iastate.edu if you want your name added!

September/October (tentative) - Marion County Extension Office is moving!!! We’re relocating to what was previously called The Trabert Center at 210 N. Iowa St, Knoxville. We’ll keep you posted when we know the exact date!

October 2 —Farm Crawl, 11 am—5 pm.

October 8-9—Autumn Studio Tour, 10 am—5 pm Saturday & noon—5 pm Sunday.

“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.