MEETING PLANS
The Extension office is still closed to the public. The may be opening back up the beginning of September.

I am making the call that we will not have an “official” meeting in August, since the virus situation does not seem to have gotten any better; however, I would consider an outside get-together on our usual meeting date and time, in central park (or some other shady location) and members could bring lawn chairs, wear masks and we could socially distance. Please email me if you would be interested in doing this. (cgeib47@gmail.com or text to 641-777-9503)

MEETING MINUTES
There was no meeting in July.

TREASURER’S REPORT
Balance: $1151.94 (official report from Extension 6/30/20)

UPCOMING EVENTS
No known events.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

Arborists

Arborists are persons who specialize in the management and care of individual trees. A professional arborist is knowledgeable about tree care and usually has formally studied arboriculture, forestry, horticulture, and has extensive training in the area of arboriculture through workshops and short courses. When dealing with individual trees on their property, Iowa homeowners may need the services of a professional arborist. In this consultant role, the professional arborist provides information and recommendations.

A consulting arborist usually does not perform actual tree care work, but they are hired to give recommendations on a variety of tree management topics. The types of services that consulting arborists often provide include: individual tree value appraisal, tree problem diagnosis, evaluation of hazard trees, tree selection and general tree care recommendations, and recommendations for prevention of tree damage during construction projects.

Information in this publication includes consulting arborist firm or individual name, telephone number, service area, and website, when available. The column titled “Service Area” indicates
that the vendor is willing to work anywhere in Iowa (Statewide) or only specific areas of the state (NE, Wright County, or Muscatine + 30 miles). The “Arborist” column identifies individuals and firms who have a certified arborist on “Staff” or a certified arborist who will make the visit “On-site.”

A list of vendors in publication 14436, also called FOR366B, (link is listed below) is specific only to individuals or firms with certification by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). All listed individuals and firms have received the ISA Certified Arborist first level certification. Others may have additional certifications. Their varying certification levels are identified with a special symbol with ISA Certified Arborist being the first level of certification and ISA Board Certified Master Arborist the highest level of certification.


(Above information is from the publication 14436, aka FOR 366B, which is available at store.extension.iastate.edu)

### Choosing an Arborist

Trees are one of the most valuable assets in a landscape. All properties, whether residential, commercial, municipal, or college campuses, enjoy the benefits of having healthy and beautiful trees. In addition to the aesthetic appeal, a well maintained tree can add value to a property, whereas a poorly maintained tree can cause a significant liability. Keeping trees maintained as they age may require the services of an arborist, who can prune, fertilize, assess weather-related damage, or diagnose other tree-related problems.

Professional arborists are trained in the management and care of trees. Removing or pruning trees, especially large trees, can be very dangerous work. Untrained individuals attempting to work on trees can easily cause damage to property, threaten their own lives, or threaten the lives of others. This is why tree work should be performed only by a properly trained and equipped arborist.

Choosing an arborist:
- Check with city hall (they may have a list of qualified companies)
- Look for professional affiliation
- Check yellow pages (may list professional affiliation)
- Look for ISA certification (International Society for Arboriculture)—there are different types of certification (listed in bulletin RG214, link listed below)
- Be cautious of individuals going door-to-door seeking business
- Check if the company is insured
- Ask for references
- Get more than one estimate
- Get a contract, and check it twice

(Above information is from the publication 12124, aka RG 214, which is available at store.extension.iastate.edu)

The links below were sent to me by the ISU Plant & Insect Diagnostic Clinic. As one publication is from the forestry department and one from Reiman Gardens, I found some conflicting info on
what arborists may or may not do. Some may only consult, while some may actually perform some services.

1) Consulting Arborists Provide Service in Iowa (FOR 366B)  
https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/14436

2) how to choose and arborist see the resource (RG 214)  
https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/12124

The ISA certified database  
https://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist

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Ways To Use All the Zucchini

- Donate to a food pantry or friends
- Make a cake (lots of different zucchini cake recipes on the web)
- Make a bread or muffins
- Make a quiche or frittata
- Make a main dish for a meal (stuffed zucchini, zucchini skillet meal—check the web)
- Zucchini pizza or flatbread (see recipe below)
- Stir fry

Cheesy Zucchini and Red Onion Flatbread

4 to 6 Servings

Nonstick vegetable oil spray
1 10-oz tube refrigerated pizza dough
3/4 cup garlic-and-herb cheese spread (such as Alouette or Boursin), divided
3/4 cup finely grated parmesan cheese, divided
3 Tbsp chopped fresh Italian parsley, divided
1 small red onion
1 7- to 8-inch-long zucchini (green or yellow), cut crosswise into 1/8-inch-thick rounds
Olive oil

Preheat oven to 400 F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper; spray with nonstick spray. Unroll dough onto parchment. Spread half of herb cheese over 1 long half of dough, leaving 1/2-inch plain border. Sprinkle with half of the parmesan and 2 Tbsp parsley. Using parchment as an aid, fold plain half of dough over filled half (do not seal edges). Spread remaining herb cheese over top; sprinkle with remaining parmesan. Remove enough outer layers of onion to yield 2-inch diameter core; cut onion into 1/8-inch-thick rounds. Arrange 1 row of zucchini down 1 long side of dough. Arrange onion rounds in row alongside zucchini. Arrange 1 more row of zucchini alongside onion. Brush vegetables with oil; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake bread until puffed and deep brown at edges, about 24 minutes. Sprinkle with 1 Tbsp parsley.  
(Note: I have made this without folding the dough, leaving the pizza dough flat. Just spread all of the garlic and herb cheese and parmesan on the full sheet of dough—you may need more zucchini and onion slices than the original recipe mentions to cover the full sheet of dough.)
**MUSINGS OF THE MONTH**

The flower gardens are still looking good, but are on the downside of peak bloomtime. I have been editing out: floppy plants, annuals that have gone to seed, perennials that have seed heads, perennials that have faded and/or turned brown, perennials with overgrown foliage.

What’s in bloom: hydrangeas, purple coneflowers, daylilies, liatris, shasta daisies, black-eyed susans, hyssop and phlox!

Vegetable garden: The zucchini are now producing, after early problems with incomplete pollination (blossom end of squash is narrower than stem end and the squash does not grow to mature size), lots of cucumbers (English and Persian), lots of tomatoes which are still green. Once again I planted too many cucumbers, so have removed the vines of English cucumbers, since that type does not store well—that is why they are always wrapped in plastic at the grocery store. Hoping the tomatoes start turning soon! The garlic is dug, and even though I don’t plant a lot, there always seems to be some left over from the previous year.

Since the Extension has routed several tree calls to me, I thought the information on arborists would help, if anyone else gets tree questions. I am no way a tree expert, so for tree diseases needed to have a resource, and thus I contacted the Plant & Insect Diagnostic Clinic. There is a full page of “consulting arborists’ in the FOR 366B publication, but not a lot of options specifically for SE Iowa, although several vendors do service the entire state.

I think we have a long ways to go before the Covid virus is under control. Gardening is the perfect activity to keep you occupied!

Keep cool, stay safe and happy gardening!

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