

THE GARDENER'S DIRT

The Latest Scoop from the Scott County Master Gardeners

May 2009

Blossoms, Baskets and Dreams Plant Sale

2009 Plant Sale

Dates and times to remember:

Plant drop off times:

May 2, 2009	9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
May 6, 2009	9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
May 7, 2009	9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
May 8, 2009	9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Plants we will **not** take—woody plants or annuals.

Plants we will take—perennials and indoor plants.

A \$5.00 coupon will be given to you when you donate your plants to our sale. This coupon may be used toward your purchase at the MG pre-sale or the plant sale.

Please try to drop your plants off at the above times rather than May 9, 2009. This is the day of the plant sale. The labeling volunteers will be taking in plants from the public on Saturday.

MASTER GARDENER PRE -SALE

Friday, May 8, 2009

5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Available for purchase by ISU Scott County Master Gardeners:

- over 300 perennial plants from Swift Greenhouse in Gilman, Iowa.
- Perennials donated by our own ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardeners and the public.
- Mothers' Day Pots

Thank you so much for all you have done so far!

Keep up the good work.

Our Mission

To provide home horticulture information and education to the citizens of Scott County consistent with Iowa State University recommendations. We also strive to increase members' knowledge of horticulture through educational programs.

More plant sale.....

This year's plant sale will ***again*** help the ISU Scott County Extension add to ***our*** gardens. **The funds raised this year will continue to help beautify the grounds as well as fund our Master Gardener programs for the coming year.**

The most important reminders for our plant sale so far are:

1. As you are dividing your perennials please "pot up" a portion for this year's plant sale.
2. Donate "gently used" containers to re-sell to the public and other MGs.
3. Donate "gently used" garden or garden related items to sell at the plant sale.

If you should have any questions about fundraising please address them to kjhoeper@msn.com or 563-381-3807 after 5:00.

Kathy Hoeper
Fundraising Committee Chair

City of Bettendorf Public Works Day (Recycle)

Submitted by Ed Sharkness, Committee Chair

We support the City of Bettendorf Public Works Day (Recycle.) We educate the public regarding composting and answer questions with the portable horticulture clinic. This is a one day program.

Our next action day is Saturday, May 16, 2009. The location is the Bettendorf Public Works Building, located at 4403 Devils Glen Road. The building is set back one block behind the Post Office. The work shifts are from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Travel time is additional. The maximum service hours available are the two shifts of two hours each plus travel time. Site preparation is also available.

To sign up, call Scott County Extension at 359-7577.

Activities are:

1. Hand out pamphlets.
2. Manage the portable horticulture clinic.
3. Monitor the televised education.
4. Omnibus person.
5. Melody Coffey shall provide a special program for children.



HORT CLINIC NEWS

Submitted by Bob Krush

- On March 18, 2009, the first-year Master Gardeners received two hours of training on “How to Work in the Hort Clinic.” Eleven of the 17 first-year MGs attended the training session. In addition, four veteran MGs attended the training. Thanks go to Marilyn Buel, Marilyn McAllister, JoAnn Garlough, Sharon Helm, Bob Krush, Arnold Olson, and David Sunleaf for conducting this training. First-year MGs who missed the training and/or have not yet signed up for your required Hort Clinic sessions should contact your mentor.
- During the first two weeks (April 1st – April 15th) of the MG staffed Hort Clinic, 21 of the 22 available sessions (a rousing 95.5%) were staffed by MGs. Many of these sessions were covered by first-year MGs along with their mentors. However, some “veteran” MGs also volunteered – Randy McIntyre, Tom Monroe, and Arnold Olson. Thanks to all for getting the 2009 MG Hort Clinic off to a great start. And special thanks to the mentors – JoAnn Garlough, Sharon Helm, Bob Krush, David Sunleaf, and Karen Truesdell.
- As of April 15th, first-year MGs Barb Butterworth and Brian Thomas have already completed their hort clinic requirement. Congrats !!! Brian has already volunteered for six sessions as of April 15th.
- We have received many calls in the hort clinic during the first couple of weeks on lawns and vegetable gardening. If you are willing to share your expertise in the hort clinic, see the next bullet on how to sign up.
- How do you sign up for the hort clinic? Check the calendar on-line at <http://calendar.yahoo.com/scottcomg> to find available dates. We also still keep a calendar at the extension office. Then call the extension office at 359-7577, or e-mail Wendy at wlarp@iastate.edu, or stop in at the office.

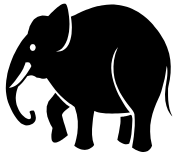
HORT CLINIC ANNOUNCEMENT SPECIAL INCENTIVE

Submitted by Vito Fiore

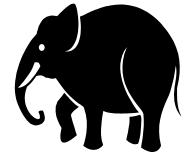
We all know one of the main purposes of our organization is to provide home horticulture information and education to the citizens of Scott County. One of the ways we accomplish that goal is through the Hort Clinic, open April 1 through October 31. Scott County residents can phone or come by the Extension Office to ask questions or bring in specimens to be identified. The hort clinic is manned by Master Gardeners in 3 hour shifts, unfortunately there are many shifts that go unmanned, in 2008 the clinic was unmanned about 20% of the time.

The Board feels that the hort clinic is critical to our mission success and have set a goal to reduce the time that the hort clinic is unmanned. The Board has agreed to an incentive plan for Certified Master Gardeners who man the hort clinic. The names of Certified Master Gardeners who complete more than 9 hours per month in the hort clinic will be placed in a drawing. At the beginning of the next month one of those names will be drawn and awarded a prize. The winner and the prize will be announced in The Gardener's Dirt.

The Board appreciates and thanks all the Master Gardeners who spend time in the hort clinic and hopes that this incentive will entice more of you to sign up and serve for this mission critical activity.



Vander Veer Plant Zoo
Summer 2009 – Garden Care
Sign Up Info



Please help us maintain and water the Master Gardener Plant Zoo gardens this summer at Vander Veer Botanical Park.

The hours are very flexible – day or evening hours – twice each week for two weeks of weeding and watering – June through September. The weeks do not need to be consecutive. We need two master gardeners each week. The Vander Veer staff will water during the week, but the weekend watering is our responsibility. Please feel free to share the weekend watering duty. You're welcome to sign up with a fellow master gardener or we will be glad to find you a partner.

Please send your preferred work dates to Joan Russell at bjrussell1968@msn.com or 563-349-9743.

Maintenance training sessions will be scheduled the first week of June.

Standby Weekend Watering Crew

If you live near the Plant Zoo gardens and would be available and the scheduled master gardener cannot water the topiaries on Saturday or Sunday, please let me know. It is very helpful to have a list to call in case we need someone to water at the last minute.

Thank you for supporting the Plant Zoo!

Joan Russell, Chair

Did You Know????

Submitted by Ann DeSalvo

- A new lilac has been introduced that has fragrant blooms from spring through the summer and is a “dwarf lilac,” no more that 60” tall. It is called Bloomerang from Proven Winners. It may be hard to get, I checked out White Flower Farm and it is sold out.
- Some plants turn out to be more valuable than others to grow from seed. Did you know that peppers are considered by some to be the second most dangerous food to eat unless they have been grown organically? (In case you were wondering—the worst is farmed salmon).
- Add this word to your vocabulary: **Inukshuks**. You can even put one in your garden. It is a stone statue similar to a cairn (a natural or constructed stack of stones without cement or mortar) but built to resemble a human form with legs and outstretched arms. So with the right pile of rocks you can build one. In the Inuit culture they serve as a symbol of hospitality and friendship. This symbol has been chosen to be the basis of the logo of the 2010 Winter Olympics Games in Vancouver, Canada.



Meet Your Advisory Board Member: Rich Craddick



Growing up in Rockford, Illinois I have fond memories of spending time with my grandfather in his garden. I feel fortunate to have somehow inherited his green thumb. We now live on a small acreage in northwest Davenport where time rather than interest or space has become the limiting factor.

My wife, Linda, is a teacher at Central Middle School and my ten year-old son, Kody, is a third grader at St Joes in DeWitt. Unfortunately, neither share my passion for gardening. I still have nightmares about the time she took the 38" deck riding mower down an 18" wide path lined with hosta.

I moved to Davenport in 1975 following graduation from St. Ambrose College to join Kent Feeds, Inc. I worked in the analytical services laboratory as a chemist for 28 years and currently serve as the manager of quality control.

I became a master gardener in 2005 and am starting my third year as a member of the advisory board.

I currently serve on the Board of directors of Rebuilding Together Quad Cities, the Illinois-Iowa Section of the American Chemical Society, The Davenport Jaycee Foundation, and the Communications and Catholic Credit Union.

How A Seed Grows *Submitted by Peggy Dykes*

Master Gardeners participated at the Greenstock event that was held at the Putnam Museum on April 10th. The eco-friendly workshop provided earth-friendly activities for kids. Master Gardeners Pat Guzis, Ruth Ottesen and Kate Gordon helped about 80 kids make newspaper pots and plant marigold seeds. The kids had fun with the hands-on activities while learning about planting and seeds. Besides the planted marigold seeds, participants were given instructions on how to make newspaper pots and a little booklet *on How A Seed Grows*.



Get to Know Your Committee Chairs—Tree Planting and Care Committee

Wayne Hannel, MG Class of 1988

Family: Wife - Jan; Children - Karen and Kristen

- My wife Jan of 32 years and I live in Bettendorf. Jan grew up in Springfield, Vermont. I grew up on a farm near Corydon in southern Indiana. We moved here in August 1978.
- Jan is bridal consultant in Bettendorf. I am a Project Manager with the Corps of Engineers.
- Karen is the on-line text coordinator at Washington University Bookstore in St. Louis. She and her husband Bryan live in St. Louis, Missouri.
- Kristen teaches elementary school in Rolling Green Elementary School in the Urbandale Community School District. She and her husband Aaron live in Johnston (suburb of Des Moines, Iowa).



Favorite time of the year: I like the spring and fall seasons. Spring is a time of new beginnings. It is a time of anticipation. I like seeing the new growth each year - it tells me that the growing season is coming. It is a time to enjoy the outdoors. Fall is a time to reflect on the results of the growing season. I enjoy seeing the fully grown garden, the results of my labors. It is a time to evaluate results and make plans for the following year.

Favorite Committee: My favorite committee is the Tree Planting and Care Committee. I have been a committee member since 1992 and committee chair since 1999. I grew up on a farm and had sugar maple trees surrounding the house. I didn't realize how much I enjoyed them until I moved away from the farm. I think it is important that we (society) plant trees for their many benefits. And if we are going to plant them, we need to plant and care for them correctly. This committee fits the education needs of the community, since there are many examples of poor planting, mulching, and pruning. Make things better one tree at a time. NOTE: I am also a Community Tree Steward (through ISU Extension).

My Favorite Plant or Flower:

- My favorite flower is the daffodil (large deep yellows like King Alfred). It is not the first flower in the spring, but it provides a big splash of early color in the garden. We had daffodils back on the farm - that was the flower we looked forward to blooming since it signified spring to us. They are a part of my past and are a 'must have' for my garden.
- My favorite plant is the sugar maple tree. Sugar maples surrounded the house I grew up in on the farm.

Education:

- MA (Master of Arts in Business Administration - Industrial Relations/ Human Resources). The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.
- MBA (Master of Business Administration). The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.
- BA (Bachelor of Arts in Education - Major/Biology, Minor/ Chemistry, General Science), University of Evansville, Evansville, Indiana.

**News articles are needed for the Gardener's Dirt
Please have articles to the Extension Office by May 15th**



Thoughts From The Belly

ã May 2009

By: Dan Mays – Ironbelly1@aol.com

Every year I am asked, “So what are you going to plant this year, Dan?” This question provides me with a perfect segue to launch into my personal campaign to improve the sorry state of Butterfly Gardens. I am certainly not discouraging folks from planting gardens with butterflies in mind. My hope is that I can encourage others to expand their focus to include the untapped possibilities of “what could be.” Establishing a few plants originally imported from China and watching a few monarch butterflies sipping nectar is setting a low bar indeed. In warmer climates (particularly in Great Britain), [Butterfly Bush](#) (*Buddleia davidii*) has proven to be an invasive thug. Planting something just because the horticultural mass-market industry dubbed this thing “Butterfly Bush” is not my idea of a sane approach. Following this magazine-promoted tack robs well-intentioned gardeners of an easily attainable bounty, simply for the sake of filling the marketing coffers.

It is true that this Chinese exotic draws adult butterflies to sip nectar – and that is largely the problem. The key word here is: “adult” – and only adult. What do the butterflies feed on prior to becoming adults? It certainly is not *Buddleia davidii* or most any other plant imported from foreign lands. While marketers harp about “clean foliage,” every gardener truly interested in Butterfly Gardens should translate this term to be “something my baby butterflies can’t or won’t eat.” Caterpillars don’t damage foliage – they are foraging.

Monarch butterflies flitting about are truly a delight to see. Instantly recognizable, they have a fascinating migratory habit. However, concentrating solely upon Monarchs is like dining exclusively on Big Mac’s for every meal. The world of butterflies and moths is a superbly rich place if only we will expand our knowledge a bit. Be careful ... you might soon learn about skippers, blues, brushfoots, hairstreaks, etc.

The expanded world (egg, larva, pupa and adult) of butterflies includes general feeders and something called “obligates.” Obligates are essentially finicky eaters. In other words, if their favorite plant is not found to lay eggs on, that butterfly or moth species will not multiply. [Regal Fritillary](#) butterflies seem to have a distinct preference for [Birdfoot Violet](#) (*Viola pedata*). However, bear in mind that it is the immature stages that require native violets. The adult will sip nectar from a wide variety of plants. I guess this tips my hand as to the answer to the opening question: “So what are you going to plant this year, Dan?” The obvious answer is Birdfoot Violet. I have 100 of those plants on order from the Master Gardener plant sale.

My interest in butterflies was stirred to life last year when I visited the 20 acre [Duke Prairie](#). It lays a few miles north of the Quad Cities, just southeast of Grand Mound in Clinton County. I was meeting up with a group from the Quad Cities Native Plant Society for a field trip and arrived a little early. At first glance, the place was full of interesting plants. However, the thing that seized my attention was the profusion of butterflies. They were everywhere! Curiously, most were species I rarely see. Many (and I emphasize many) were butterfly and moth species I had never seen before. The place shamed the meager butterfly garden “how-to” attempts advocated in popular magazines. Coincidentally, there was not a “required” *Buddleia* in sight. *Why was this? Why was there so much abundance and diversity?*

Upon further research and lots of questions, the obvious answer surfaced. There was food – their food. The kind of food the individual butterfly species needed for their young.

There remains much to be learned in the field of insect/faunal relationships. For further study, I recommend Doug Tallamy’s book, [Bringing Nature Home](#). It is an enlightening, enjoyable read. AND ... do check out the new [Iowa Butterfly Forecast website](#). It will help put your butterfly garden efforts on steroids!

2009 Tree Planting and Care Committee
Wayne Hannel – Chair, Tree Planting and Care Committee

Thanks to the dedicated volunteers who assisted the Bettendorf Trees Are Us Committee and the Bettendorf Tree Committee (through Bettendorf Parks and Recreation) planting and mulching 44 trees on April 25, 2009.

Wayne Hannel provided an educational session about proper tree planting and mulching techniques prior to the hands-on activity.

Approximately 59 volunteers (14 Master Gardeners) assisted with the planting and mulching. In addition to the Master Gardeners, volunteers came with many backgrounds (some dual categories): ISU Community Tree Stewards = 3; Bettendorf Tree Committee = 5; Bettendorf Park Board = 3; students (Bettendorf High School, Pleasant Valley High School, St. Pauls) = 25; public = 6, City Council = 1, Scott County Restoration volunteers = 7.

Master Gardeners assisting with the effort included:

James Danielson	Vito Fiore	Jane Flesher	Kate Gordon
John Hale	Wayne Hannel	Sheila Lang	Doug McDonald
Mark Moeller	Ron Phillips	Ed Sharkness	Diane Soltau
Tracy Tuftee	Bill Wyatt		

The 44 (balled and burlapped and container) trees planted by the volunteers along 53rd in Bettendorf included: 11 littleleaf lindens (*Tilia cordata*), 11 Lacebark Elms (*Ulmus parvifolia* 'Alee'), 11 bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum* 'Shawnee Brave'), and 11 European hornbeam / ironwood *Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata').

It was a pleasant spring morning in the 60's at planting time.

Thanks again!

*** Remember to turn in your volunteer hours.**

Upcoming Classes & Events

CEU's	Course #	Topic	When	Where	Cost	Instructor	Registration Information
		Master Gardener Advisory Board Meeting	May 7, 2009 6:30 p.m.	ISU Scott County Extension Office 875 Tanglefoot Ln., Bett			
		2009 Plant Sale	May 9, 2009	ISU Scott County Extension Office 875 Tanglefoot Ln., Bett			More Information in this issue of the Gardener's Dirt
		City of Bettendorf Public Works Day (Recycle)	May 16, 2009 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.	Bettendorf Public Works Building, 4403 Devils Glen Rd., Bettendorf			To sign up: ISU Scott County Extension 359-7577
*	To be determined by sessions attended. Submit proof of sessions attended to the ISU Scott County Extension Horticulturist.						



WHAT'S HOT IN SCOTT!!

The latest "hot calls" and what to look for from ISU Scott County Extension.

We have had a lot of calls on how to control "Creeping Charlie." Actually many of the samples have been Henbit and not Ground Ivy (Creeping Charlie). The following information should be helpful in distinguishing between the two plants.

Is it Ground Ivy or Henbit?

by Harlene Hatterman-Valenti, Department of Agronomy Iowa State University

A few calls and plant samples have come in during the past week on control of a broadleaf plant with roundish leaves and purple flowers. My first reaction is that this person has ground ivy, but I have seen a lot of henbit this spring which also looks like ground ivy.

Henbit is a winter annual while ground ivy or creeping charlie is a perennial. We need to tell them apart because ground ivy is a very invasive, hard to control weed, while henbit is considered a rather nonaggressive plant. These two plants are difficult to separate primarily because both produce round, toothed leaves, square stems and opposite leaf arrangement. Their flower shape (tubular) and flower color (lavender blue) are also identical and both grow well in shady areas. Therefore, how do we tell them apart? There are a few differences. First of all, the upper leaves of henbit are attached to the stem, while ground ivy leaves have petioles. Secondly, henbit has hairy leaves, unlike the smooth leaves of ground ivy. Finally, ground ivy square stems usually root at each joint where they touch the ground; each rooted joint can become an independent plant if the main stem is severed. Henbit on the other hand, will have only a single tap root. It does not produce roots at a joint that touches the ground.



Henbit

Now that we can identify these two plants, the question of control often comes up. Henbit is usually pretty easy to control with a combination postemergence product containing dicamba. One can also control henbit by applying pendimethalin in the fall or very early spring. I generally have only a few of these plants growing in my lawn and flower beds and find that pulling them is the easiest control method. Ground ivy on the other hand, is a very hard to control weed no matter what kind of control strategy is used. Hand pulling is a never ending event because the prostrate stem easily breaks at each rooted joint. One also has to be careful where you discard the plants that have been uprooted. The plants or plant segments can easily reroot in the new location that you have thrown them.

Preemergence herbicides will not control a perennial, which leaves us with postemergence control. The most effective postemergence application has contained a combination of at least two broadleaf herbicides. However, even this application will need to be repeated a couple of times at 10-14 day intervals for complete control. Research at ISU has shown that a very late fall application was the most effective. However, if you missed that application, the next best time is when the plant is in its early flowering stage, which is about now. Of course, one needs to be extra careful with postemergence broadleaf herbicides in the spring due to the succulent growth of sensitive broadleaf plants in the landscape which are easily injured by spray drift or volatilization. Therefore, make sure the application is done during a rather calm period and when the air is moving away from the sensitive plants. Also avoid hot days when the air temperature is expected to be above 85 degrees F the day of the application and a couple days following the application. This will help to eliminate any chances of volatilization.



Ground Ivy

If the ground ivy infestation is severe, consider a complete renovation of the area. In such instances Roundup, a non-selective herbicide should be used.

This article originally appeared in the April 29, 1992 issue, pp. 68-69 of Horticulture & Home Pest News

The Gardener's Dirt

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Bettendorf, IA 52722-1609
(563) 359-7577 Fax (563) 355-6569
www.extension.iastate.edu/scott



Yard Clippings

Submitted by Christine Rice



The word May is a perfumed word. It is an illuminated initial. It means youth, love, song, and all that is beautiful in life. –Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, journal, 1 May 1861, page 33.

I learned to love dandelions when I was a small child. Not only did I enjoy the delicious dandelion greens my mother gathered and prepared, but the bright yellow flower, with its wonderful composite construction, fascinated me. I never believed that spring had really come until I saw the first dandelion in bloom.

–Euell Gibbons, *Stalking the Wild Asparagus*, 1962, page 35.

So many mists in March, so many frosts in May. – English Proverb, page 17.

A Gardener's Nosegay. Editor Jude Patterson. New York: Barnes and Noble. 2003. Pages 17, 33, 35

It was morning of the sixth of May,
And May had painted with soft showers
A garden full of leaves and flowers.
And man's hand had arrayed it with such craft
There never was a garden of such price
But if it were the very Paradise.
–Geoffrey Chaucer (1343-1400) from
The Canterbury Tales, page 52.

The Sweet Life: Reflections on Home and Garden,
Editor Laura Stoddart. San Francisco: Chronicle
Books. 1999. Page 52.

Horticulturally, the month of May is opening night,
Homecoming, and Graduation Day all rolled into
one. –Tam Mossman, page 24.

A Gardener's Bouquet of Quotations, Editor Maria
Polushkin Robbins. New Jersey: The Ecco Press.
1993. Page 24.