

MASTER GARDENER UPDATE. . . Friday, December 14, 2007
Announcements and news for ISU Extension Master Gardeners, staff, and faculty

IN THIS ISSUE

SUBMITTING VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS – ATTENTION COUNTY OFFICES
ADVANCED MASTER GARDENER TRAINING
VENDORS WANTED FOR 2008 SIOUXLAND GARDEN SHOW
POLK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2008 BUS TRIPS
SUBMITTING YOUR NEWS

SUBMITTING VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS – ATTENTION COUNTY OFFICES

The time to submit Master Gardener volunteer service hours is fast approaching. On or before December 31, please send one email to James Romer (jromer@iastate.edu) with a list of those who have contributed hours, their totals, grand total of volunteer service hours for your county, and a brief description of the major projects completed or on going. Please do not mail any hard copies of individual records. Please file those in the county office for future reference. Last year we had almost 89,000 volunteer service hours submitted. With your help, I'm sure we can set a new record!

ADVANCED MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

Many of you asked for it, and we are happy to announce that plans are being made to hold an Advanced Training for Master Gardeners in July of 2008. The focus of the subject matter will be centered on plants and plant diseases. Are you interested? If so, please send me an email (jromer@iastate.edu). Don't miss out on what will be a great experience!

VENDORS WANTED FOR 2008 SIOUXLAND GARDEN SHOW

Informational sessions, how-to demonstrations, and exhibits will all be a part of the second Siouxland Garden Show. The event will be held Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15, 2008, at the Marina Center in South Sioux City, Neb. Iowa State University (ISU) Extension in Woodbury County and University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Extension in Dakota County is heading up the planning for the event. We have outstanding, regionally-known speakers lined up for the informational sessions

and how-to demonstrations. What we really need now are businesses, clubs and government agencies who want to exhibit, said Carol Larvick, Extension Educator at UNL Extension. The planning committee has done a lot of planning to keep the booth spaces affordable for everyone.

Organizers are seeking exhibitors to showcase new and innovative products plus traditional items and services that make gardening and lawn care easier and more enjoyable. Exhibitors are also permitted to sell horticultural products.

The planning committee is really getting excited about the quality regional experts we are bringing in as presenters for the informational sessions, said Sherry McGill, ISU Extension in Woodbury County education director. One of our featured speakers, garden writer Jan Riggenschach, will be back by popular demand to present Gardening for Fun.

Plus, other professionals will share their expertise on water gardening, outdoor photography, shrubs and trees, bearded iris, landscape design and so much more.

Informative presentations will be offered on both Friday and Saturday.

The event will offer how-to demonstrations and educational displays throughout the two day event on ponds, container gardening, vegetable gardening, transplanting, and other topics. Visitors to the Siouxland Garden Show will only need to pay the \$5 gate fee to have access to all sessions, demonstrations and exhibits.

Planning this event are representatives from ISU Extension-Woodbury County, UNL Extension in Dakota County, Sioux City Earl May, Moshers Greenhouses and Landscaping, Prairie Pedlar, and ISU Extension Master Gardeners.

For more information on attending, volunteering, being a commercial vendor or displaying as a nonprofit agency, please contact ISU Extension-Woodbury County at (712) 276-2157 or visit www.extension.iastate.edu/woodbury.

POLK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2008 BUS TRIPS

by: Mary Beth Day, Polk Co. Master Gardener

Remember the fun and excitement you experienced taking the Master Gardener classes? How would you like to recapture those feelings? Come with us on a bus trip to the 2008 Midwest Regional Master Gardener Conference (formerly the Tri-State Conference) in Milwaukee, WI.

Wednesday, July 16th – Saturday, July 19, 2008

You will begin the conference weekend by choosing one of six tours to private gardens in the area. Among the twenty plus gardens featured in the tours:

- *shade gardens and gardens housing native plants
- *one highlighting antique outhouses
- *one garden designed especially for visitors in wheelchairs,
- *others with unique combinations of vegetables and perennials as well as a tremendous variety of woody plants,
- *the “rosarium” of a renowned rose hybridizer
- *plus many, many more.

All tours include lunch in a local restaurant and fabulous shopping opportunities at a fine garden center. A day of garden tours will be the perfect introduction to “Gardening Through the Continuum of Life.”

Speakers:

Keynotes by

*Michael Weishan of Public Television's *Victory Garden*

*Melinda Myers of Great Lakes Gardener

*Edward Lyon, Executive Director of Janesville Rotary Gardens

*Gene Rothert, enabling garden author, educator and manager of Chicago

Botanical Garden's Buehler Enabling Garden & Horticulture Therapy Services are just a start. Topics range from home irrigation to 18th century gardens for today.

Saturday's *Hands On* is a morning to try something new. Gardening is for everyone; learn to garden better and easier no matter where you are in the continuum of life.

Starting January 2008 visit the web site for more info:

www.premierwebplatform.com/southeastwisconsin-gardeners

Mark your calendars - the Committee is also working on 2 one day trips:

- May 31, 2008 - One day trip to the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area
- October 25, 2008 - One day trip to the Omaha/Nebraska City area

Watch for more details or contact Mary Beth Day at marybethday@gmail.com or by telephone 515-202-4075 and I'll tell you what we've planned so far.

SUBMITTING YOUR NEWS

Master Gardener Update is rightfully published Friday by the Iowa Master Gardener Coordinator. Please send your news via email to James Romer (jromer@iastate.edu). For questions, call (515) 294-2336.

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