

South Dakota Extension Master Gardeners

Across Prairies and Pines

Summer 2010



Across Prairies and Pines

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Message from Rhoda

Greetings all, and a special **Welcome!** to our new trainees from the Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Aberdeen and Miller areas! This year's class includes nearly 110 enthusiastic new interns ready to start extending their newly gained knowledge out to their communities. If you are an experienced Master Gardener, please welcome these newbies and help them get started on their volunteer hours.

I've been updating our Master Gardener website <http://hortmg.sdstate.edu>. If your local group has an MG event they would like posted on the website, just email me the information. Please also let me know if you discover broken links. SDSU is in the midst of revamping their website, so there may be a number of "disappeared" pages that will take a while to discover.

Due to some special funding, we are planning to offer MG training in Eagle Butte this fall (Sept-Nov.) If you know of persons in that area who may be interested, let them know of the opportunity.

Thanks to all of you who are faithfully reporting your hours beyond your first 50! If you need extra log sheets, you can download them from the website, ask for them at your county office or give one of the horticulture educators or me a call. Remember, it's never too late to turn them in. We really do appreciate your efforts!! I enjoy reading about all the different projects that you are involved with. The service you report helps us show that the Master Gardener program is a very worthwhile effort for SDSU and the state. **THANK YOU!!!**

September 2010

South Dakota MG Update ~ Winner, SD

September 10-11, 2010

Planting the Future Forest presented by Dr. John Ball ~Yankton, SD

September 28, 2010 ~ 7:00 PM

Donation welcomed to cover expenses

Pavilion Auditorium, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Campus

West Highway 52 or 4th St., Yankton

Sponsored by Missouri Valley Master Gardeners

What trees should we plant to replace ash? Dr. Ball will offer options. He will discuss the lesser known but wonderful trees we should be planting to increase the diversity of our tree cover and reduce the impact of emerald ash borer.

Potential 2011 MG Training Locations

Mitchell, Pierre, Spearfish, Watertown and Yankton

Greetings from the President's Desk

Hello to my fellow Master Gardeners!

I am sitting here in awe of the talent and knowledge we have out there among the many Master Gardeners in South Dakota. What a great group you are. I hear of programs you are putting on, projects you are doing and the vast outreach you are making in our communities. Master Gardeners are making a difference!

There was a workshop on container gardening in Pierre given to a standing-room only crowd that was fantastic. I missed some others while I was down south but heard about the good programs and was sorry to have missed them. Several of the clubs will have write-ups in this newsletter that will give you a quick look at all the different projects around our state.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the State Update in Winner on September 10 & 11, 2010. It is like a yearly reunion to see old gardening friends and meet new ones. See you soon!

Penny Bower, President

Mobridge Area Master Gardeners

What gorgeous weather we have been having. We old master gardeners are still helping with the arboretum in Mobridge but have abandoned the classes this year--not enough help.

The new master gardener class from last year had been busy with 4-H tree planting, planting in golf club planters, and a lot of other projects that I've noticed. This fall they will certainly have lots to report.

Reported by Shirley Masteller

Marla Huse of Onida continues *Garden Bugs* for the fourth summer. The children, ages 2 through 8, at two daycare facilities gain gardening knowledge through crafts, games, experiments, and snacks as well as by tending a container garden they created together. *Garden Bugs* runs June and July, one day a week, for one hour.



Stay in the Loop!

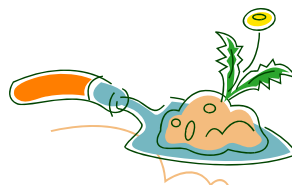
Notify Kathy Bruckner if you have an Email or Postal Mail Address Change or Correction

Pennington Co Extension Office

kathybru@co.pennington.sd.us

394-2199 Ext. 111

Thank You!



Penny wanted to share some observations about her favorite subject, weeds! *Authors unknown.*

AND THERE ARE WEEDS

God blesses my garden, but he doesn't weed.

I garden, therefore I weed.

Free Weeds. "U Pick 'Em"

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill in the plant kingdom except for learning to grow in rows.

If I wanted an easy care garden, I would have planted weeds.

Plant and your friend will plant with you. Weed and you weed alone.

Give a weed an inch and it will take a yard. Maybe the neighbor's too.

Whoever said work well done never needs doing over – has never weeded a garden.

Weeds multiply in direct proportion to your efforts to eliminate them. I actually think they multiply.

Weeds grow taller and faster as the days lengthen. They become masters of disguise.

REMINDER: Anyone can submit articles for the newsletter. Deadline for the Winter 2010 issue is November 15, with publication around December 1. Please contact Tracy (tracylq@pie.midco.net) if you want to be added to the "Reporters" email group.

Perkins County Master Gardeners

Steps are under way for the second Annual Pumpkin Fest in Bison. Step one was done on April 22 with the decorating of garden markers for the kid's hills of pumpkins. Step two, originally set for May 13, was delayed several times due to the cool wet weather. In fact it was so delayed that school was out and the kids were gone by the time the pumpkin seeds could be planted. Even tilling the pumpkin patch was a challenge. The seeds finally were planted on May 27, two weeks later than "the plan".



**Photos by Carolyn Hendricks
Reported by Karen Englehart**

The next project is the weeding of the patch, a never ending job! Hopefully there will be pumpkins set on by August 12 when the kids will get to initial the pumpkins on their vines. The initials are scratched lightly into the shell of the pumpkin, as the pumpkin grows the initial or other decoration heals over as a raised scar, much like a brand, it grows as the pumpkin grows. It is always interesting to see how this turns out. Last year this was experimental but this year we may take time to do a little more "decorating".

The second Annual Pumpkin Fest is currently set to be celebrated on October 19 at the school in conjunction with a volleyball game. There will be pumpkins for sale as well as pumpkin baked goods as a fundraiser in support of youth gardening projects, 4-H, and After School Kids.



Generous friend retires to that great garden in sky

Excerpts reprinted with Cathie Draine's permission. First published in the Rapid City Journal on April 1, 2010.

The Friday, March 26, Rapid City Journal had a lengthy obituary for a longtime friend, mentor and general gardening enthusiast for many area gardeners, Earl Dailey.

To know Earl was, for me, an adventure in experiencing the often surprising and delightful sides of this amazing man. He was well-known for his boundless store of Ole and Lena jokes, his "purposeful puttering around the yard" and his creative engineering of beanpoles on pulleys.

Gardening friend Mel Glover recounted Earl's being able to make a package of lettuce seeds last 100 years. "He would plant those seeds one by one with tweezers!" exclaimed Mel, wonderingly.

Earl was also generous in the best tradition of gardeners. Many years ago, he gave me some seeds of a lovely pink mallow that he had gathered along a country road near the now nonexistent town of Strool. That plant, known to us as Earl Dailey mallow, grows in my garden and also the gardens of many friends.

The obituary noted scholarships in his name at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology and at First

Presbyterian Church. There is another of his good works that affects gardeners that does not bear his name but supports his commitment to education.

Almost a decade ago, Earl, Bill Keck, Lyn Blom and I had cookies and tea in our living room as Earl presented his plan for the establishment of a South Dakota Master Gardener Foundation fund to support horticulture through education.

The seed of an idea was planted. Legal requirements were met, and in 2004, the mission was stated: The foundation supports horticulture through education and the assistance "shall include but not be limited to, horticultural training, educational projects and Master Gardener leadership development."

Disbursing grants from the interested generated by the foundation, in 2009, \$1,450 was given in small grant projects throughout South Dakota.

Although the South Dakota Master Gardener Foundation does not bear Earl's name, there are many who know of his vision and effort to establish this and are grateful.

Potter County Activities

The Potter County Fairgrounds got a new look last year. Sixteen kids from ages 7 to 18 started the project in 2009, with help from a mini grant from the generosity of South Dakota Community & Family Extension Leaders. The kids, along with a little help from a few parents, dug grass, spread four inches of sand and placed 144 bricks in four circles five feet in diameter in the shape of a four-leaf clover. Landscape fabric was laid in the circles and filled with soil. Flagstone was added in the shape of a tail for the clover and to fill in between the four planting circles. Some of the kids did such a good job of lining up and leveling brick, they could go into business!



We planted our garden on June 8, 2009, with a wide range of plants and seeds including sunflowers, glads, six different herbs, peas, beans, carrots, broccoli, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, miniature pumpkins, cucumbers, green onions, marigolds, radishes and more. The planters were very crowded, which resulted in a learning experience. We only had to water three times and weed once. During plant checks the kids harvested radishes and broccoli and tasted the herbs and spinach. Some of the plants the kids have never seen or tasted before.

At the fair the kids showed their parents and friends their fun and delicious garden area. The garden area was started as a memorial tribute for two special people who have supported our horticulture project and 4-H for many years. We plan to have their names placed on memorial stones and set in our garden. Plans are also underway to add other planting beds and a decorative mail box to the Exhibit Building area for notes about the garden and a place to hang tools. We are excited to think this project will grow for many years and be a wonderful addition to our 4-H kid's learning experience.

Submitted by Master Gardener & 4-H Leader Kris Rausch, Gettysburg

Minnehaha County News

Our year got off to a busy start with the 2010 Lawn & Garden Show on March 19, 20 & 21. Minnehaha Master Gardeners had a booth with literature about the group and other volunteers gave presentations on making bird feeders, arranging flowers from your garden, easy backyard garden crafts, terrariums: gardens under glass, rain barrel construction, rain gardens, How to plant a tree and keep it alive, growing & preparing gourds for craft and concrete garden leaves.

Gardening With the Masters Series is a series of 15 to 20 minutes lectures that are open to the general public. The 2010 series began on March 25 on the topic of Veggie 101. Lessons were on the basics of growing vegetables in the yard and several children attended. The second lesson was held on May 20 and the third on June 3 on topics such as building our soil, garden transplants, timing of planting, and harvest. A series on Flowering Gardening 101 will be held in the fall.

A continuing education trip was taken to the Yankton Minimum Unit and Mike Durfee State Prison Garden Tour. The tour was organized by Jackie Wilcox and was limited to 30 people that drove in their own vehicles.



Public presentations titled "Ask a Master Gardener" were given at various locations in Sioux Falls. Booths were set up at Wal-Mart and Lewis Drugs Stores April 27 and May 22.

The spring plant sale was held at the W.H. Lyons Fairgrounds in the Fine Arts Building on Saturday, May 15 from 9 a.m. until noon. Something new on the agenda this year was garden books for sale.

The Minnehaha County Garden Tour will be held on July 7 in Sioux Falls. Julie Clarity and Nancy Torkelson agreed to chair the event that usually involves visiting approximately nine gardens.

I hope you all have a wonderful growing season that brings you joy and good things to eat.

Gloria K. Bauske, Minnehaha County Master Gardeners Secretary

Prairie Potters :: Hughes & Stanley County



After one of the harshest winters in recent memory, the gardeners in central SD are enjoying a great start to this busy growing season. In March we began a variety of educational programs for young and old and everyone in between.

On March 11 we hosted Jerry Mills with a program on Sustainable Landscaping. His topics included use of drought tolerant plants and use of mulch for moisture retention. Dan McCormick provided information on Trees for Central South Dakota.

A Children’s Gardening workshop was held at the Discovery Center for area educators. Luann Noeske and Tracy Laqua assisted Jerry Mills and Donna Noyes with the class. Topics covered included pizza gardens, soils, seed starting, seed packets and garden journals. Cindy Jungman researched children’s gardening books and brought a display of books that are available from Rawlins Library.

Seventy people attended the “Growing Vegetables in Containers” class. Cindy, Luann and Tracy covered vegetable varieties, soil, fertilizer and containers. We ordered and packaged seeds for sale for varieties suitable for growing in containers. We also had many “show and tell” items, such as purchased and home-made self-watering containers, soils, fertilizers and mulch. We also explained how to make your own self-watering containers using an 18-gallon tote.

Work continues at the Pierre Native Plant Arboretum. The second annual pruning workshop was held in April. After a brief lecture about choosing the proper tool for the job, how to make a pruning cut and what type of branches need to be removed, attendees were matched up with Master Gardeners or Arbor Board members for some hands-on pruning lessons. Three work-day sessions have been held at the Arboretum to plant replacement trees, do additional pruning and place the remaining signage in the proper location.

Tracy joined the monthly Reading Adventure Kids at Rawlins Library in May. Fun gardening stories were read including *An A to Z Recipe for the Earth* and *Compost Stew*. Following the compost theme, Tracy brought a sample of materials put in compost piles and finished compost. She also brought ten bags, each with a compost pile item in it. The kids felt in the bags and made their guesses. The children made newspaper pots and planted marigolds to take home.

May 5 brought John Ball to Pierre for a speaking engagement entitled “It’s The Diversity.” He informed the participants about the advantages of using a variety of plants and trees in the landscape and provided an Emerald Ash Borer update.



Potters able to work the sale are ready for customers.

Our annual plant sale was held on May 20 in conjunction with the Conservation District’s Surplus Tree sale. Our sale was a huge success. Approximately 1000 perennials, annuals, and vegetables were purchased and will adorn the gardens of Pierre and area residents. The proceeds go to support various garden projects in our region.

The Prairie Potter members are also working on the public gardens that we care for during the summer months, including the Steamboat Park and Griffin Park entrances. The Bell Tower garden got a facelift this spring with some leveling and maintenance on the Bell Tower. There will be lots of weeding and watering for the rest of the season.

Penny Bower and the local 4-H group in Vivian planted their wine barrels once again to beautify areas around Vivian. Penny also gave a short program to the group on planting in containers and on photo journalism: how to document your gardening successes.

We will be on our knees much of the summer so let’s say a prayer or two for a great harvest and peace for this beautiful earth.

Submitted by Elaine Konechne



Penny and the Vivian Planting Crew

Greetings from the Northeast . . . Prairie Partners



Wrapping up 2009, we report that through our Christmas Social gift exchange the Prairie Partners Master Gardeners based in Aberdeen were able to contribute \$55 to the South Dakota Master Gardener Endowment Fund.

With 2010 well under way our 29 members with Jerry Mills, Extension Horticulture Educator, at the helm are now off and running, tilling, planting and pruning.

The Yard & Garden Expo, held March 13 at the Ramada, was attended by approximately 90 people and covered six topics: Hardscaping; Using Compost as Mulch; Tips for Dividing and Moving Perennials; Flower Arranging Tips; Pruning Made Easy; Preserving your Harvest. Twelve vendors participated and provided additional interest and information for attendees.

Brown County Fairground activities include cleaning up, planting and maintaining the three entrance beds and barrels of flowers that are placed throughout the grounds during the Brown County Fair. At this writing we have cleaned up the beds, divided and potted flats of Echinacea for our plant sale and have the beds in good order for Memorial Day.

We are making plans for our booth at the Brown County Fair which will feature native plants. We also expect to have three members judge the 4-H horticultural exhibits.

Gardening with the Masters-Spring Program was held May 8 at the Northern Electric Auditorium in Bath. The program was themed "Greenscaping" and included presentations on mulching, native perennials, composting and soil testing. Attendees enjoyed refreshments and provided the presenters with questions throughout the evening.

Plant & Rummage Spring Sale, an annual event held on May 15 produced revenue of \$1400 and featured an "Echinacea Blow-Out" with plants from the fairgrounds beds selling for \$1 each. Members also potted excess plant material from their gardens and labeled the plants with basic information. The sale is a great time to refresh one's knowledge of plants that do well in our area. Club members and community shoppers alike find this a day of fun.

Master Gardener Training. May 18 we welcomed 22 new trainees with coffee and snacks during a break from their first session of coursework.

Plans for the balance of 2010 include:

The New Beginnings Garden, a project that focuses on providing at-risk youth with guidance in soil preparation, planting, weeding, watering and harvesting veggies in a 30 by 50 foot garden now surrounded by an 8 foot fence to keep the critters (deer, bunnies and gophers) out. Soil preparation and planting are complete at the vegetable garden. The youth have recently worked on plantings in a small flower garden and have planted spruce trees.

Garden Line and a visit to McCrory Gardens. Five members have volunteered to man the Garden Line phone bank this summer for what has become an annual trip to Brookings to visit to McCrory Gardens and the Garden Line panel.

Master Gardener Hot Line will be resuming this year. Mondays from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm PPMG members will answer questions called into the Brown County Extension office as well as those from our area that were not addressed during the live Garden Line program.

Gardening with the Masters-Fall Workshop. Plans are underway for the September 18 program.

SDSU University Week for Women Several members are considering attending University Week for this continuing education opportunity offered July 6 through 8 in Brookings.

South Dakota Master Gardener's Update/Conference. Several members are making plans to attend the annual update on September 10 and 11 in Winner.



Photo by Tracy Laqua

**"In the spring, at the end of the day,
you should smell like dirt." Margaret Atwood**

Submitted by Marilyn Maloney of Prairie Partners Master Gardeners

Custer County Master Gardeners

Custer County Master Gardeners started gearing up for the 2010 garden season in late April, long before any decent gardening weather was on the horizon!

Our first major project of the year was the Mountain Pine Beetle display at the Custer Library. With the increased beetle activity in the Hills we thought it would be beneficial to put together a display that showed the lifecycle and biology of the beetle and what landowners can do to protect their trees. We are very thankful to the staff of the Black Hills National Forest for their help and materials. The display, titled "Mountain Pine Beetle: Coming To A Forest Near You!", included live beetles and larvae at work, an extensive collection of beetles and wood borers in the area, posters and a "kid friendly" quiz that people could take to see what they learned from the display. We received positive comments from the library staff and patrons. Kudos to Brenda Anderson, Kathy French, Joanne Sutton, Mary Pekarna, and Helen McGranahan for taking the project on.

In early May, we had the kick-off for our weekly summer gardening articles in the Custer County Chronicle. The column runs from May to mid-October. Articles cover some of the hot gardening topics or answer most-asked gardening questions and share information about projects or events that the Master Gardeners are sponsoring throughout the spring and summer. This year's featured writers are Tom Thorson, Joanne Sutton, and Helen McGranahan.

Master Gardener interns Joanne Sutton and Mary Pekarna are currently working on a butterfly/native garden at the Custer YMCA. Master Gardeners Ingrid Grimes and Helen McGranahan are assisting them with the project.

One of our ongoing projects is maintaining the beds at the 1880 Courthouse Museum. Master Gardener Mary Hoover has volunteered to chair this committee. Marge McColley and Joanne Mason will lend a hand with watering, labeling the plants and weeding.

The Custer Master Gardeners also work on projects cooperatively with the Mile High Garden Club, because quite a few of the Master Gardeners are also very involved in the Garden Club. We have some very important projects dedicated to paying tribute to two of our deceased members who were lifelong citizens of Custer County, Master Gardeners, Garden Club members, and also happened to be sisters: Avis Hespen and Caroline Hatton. The Custer County Master Gardeners will be sponsoring two special entry categories at the Custer County Fair in memory of Avis and Caroline. This will be the third year for the Avis Hespen Memorial Exhibit which will be in the Plant Division. The rules are that the entry has to be a red geranium in a red pot. Avis always said, "I like any color as long as it is RED!" The pot must be bigger than 6" in diameter and have

been cultured by the entrant for at least three months.

The Caroline Hatton Memorial Exhibit will be a display of fresh herbs. Caroline was incredibly enthusiastic about herb gardening. We would like to invite our counterparts in Fall River and Pennington Counties (or any other interested Master Gardeners) to get their entries ready for the Custer County Fair which runs from August 11-15. There will be a cash prize for each of the categories. For more information on these events contact either Marge McColley or Doug Hesnard.

After Avis passed away in 2007, the Custer Mile High Garden Club started having the Avis Hespen Memorial Garden Tour. In 2009, the Custer County Master Gardeners and the Mile High Garden Club teamed up and purchased a tree that was planted at the Custer Courthouse Museum in honor of Avis and her dedication to both organizations. On July 9, at high noon (prior to the Avis Hespen Memorial Garden Tour) a marker will be placed at the base of the tree at the Courthouse Museum to honor Avis and the many hours of service she gave to the Custer community.

More dates to put on the "Gardener's Calendar":

Custer Gold Discovery Days-July 22-24. The Mile High Garden Club will be sponsoring their 9th annual flower show, which from this year forward will be held in memory of Caroline Hatton. The Flower Show starts on Friday, July 22 and runs through Saturday July 23. Custer Master Gardeners are also planning their entry in the Gold Discovery Days Parade which is held on Saturday, July 23. Thanks to Mary Hoover for volunteering to head up the Master Gardener entry in the parade.

On Sunday August 15, the Custer County Master Gardeners will be hosting their 4th Annual Plant Swap at the Custer County Fair in Hermosa. Potted plants can be dropped off between 8 and 9 am. Participants will receive one ticket for each plant they bring. The Plant Swap will run from 10 to 11am. For each ticket you have you can exchange it for a plant that someone else brought. For those who did not bring plants but want to participate there generally are some plants leftover because the Custer Master Gardeners provide extras. After 11 am those who didn't bring plants can buy up to 4 tickets for \$1 each and get one plant for each ticket they purchase. Or in other words, the leftover plants are a dollar each. The proceeds for the purchase of the leftover plants will be donated to the Fair Board in support of the fair. Big thanks go to Marge McColley and Doug Hesnard who have chaired this event since it started four years ago. We hope area Master Gardeners will consider joining us for our plant swap! For more information you can contact either Marge McColley or Doug Hesnard.

Submitted by Helen McGannon

Pennington County Master Gardeners

The first annual Spring Fever event in Rapid City was held on March 6, 2010, at Western Dakota Vocational School. It was chaired by Horticultural Extension Educator Rick Abrahamson and co-chaired by MG intern Cathy Druckery. 162 people registered to hear speakers from SDSU and the surrounding Black Hills area: Dr. John Ball, landscaping; Dr. Mike Catangui, good bugs - bad bugs; Rick Abrahamson, propagation; Cindy Reed, wild flowers; Extension Home Economist Sally Hageman, food preservation; MG Joe Hillberry, fruit trees; Rapid City Parks Department Head Gardener Tim Forster, perennials; Jerry Owen, bees; MG Mary Bodensteiner, Seed Savers; MG Mel Glover, vegetable gardening. The event included local vendors and lunch-in-a-flowerpot served by MG Deb Jensen from her Black Hills Bagels.

MG LeAnne Feullirat chaired a booth at the Youth and Family Annual Kids' Fair on April 9. For many years, area MGers have been helping local children plant seeds in a pot to take home and grow. Pots, potting soil, and seeds are all donated by local businesses.

Area Master Gardeners and the Rapid City Garden Club co-sponsored the 11th annual Plant Share on May 22, at the Pennington Co. Extension/4-H building. Cathie Draine heads the project. Those who bring plants to share are

given a ticket for four plants; those without plants may pay \$1 for a ticket good for four plants. More tickets can be traded for plants or purchased. Coffee and cookies are served and door prizes donated by local MGers are provided. The May/June 2010 issue of *Hobby Farm Home* featured the Rapid City Plant Share in an article about Plant Swaps and Sales around the United States. Any monies collected from the event go toward prizes for children who compete in the horticulture division of the Central States Fair in August.

The annual Rapid City Garden walk, also co-sponsored by Pennington Co. MGers and garden club members, will take place on July 11. Chairpersons are Helen Magnussen and Deb Jensen; one of the gardens on tour is that of Bill and Jeanette Keck.

Among on-going projects for area MGers and MG interns are Growing and Gardening with the Masters classes, led by Tom Allen and Mel Glover, and taught by many area MGers. Parks and gardens involving MGers and interns include Mary Hall Park, Journey Museum Gardens, Sioux Park Herb Garden, Rapid City Regional Hospice House gardens, and the Rapid City Garden Club Educational Garden.

Submitted by Tamra Glover

National Master Gardener Blog Launched May 3

Land grant university Extension Master Gardener (EMG) program coordinators have launched the first national blog for EMG volunteers. Blog posts can be found directly at <http://blogs.extension.org/mastergardener> or through the new national Extension Master Gardener website at <http://extension.org/mastergardener>.

With over 94,000 master gardeners contributing an annual service value of over \$100 million nationwide, the EMG program is hoping to take its program to a new level by increasing the interaction of its participants. EMG coordinators and guest contributors from various states will take turns sharing a weekly blog post on a topic geared toward the national EMG community. Master Gardener volunteers will be encouraged to discuss items appearing in blog posts by submitting comments using the blog's commenting features.

Monica David, Illinois EMG coordinator and Consumer Horticulture National Committee chair, said, "I hope the EMG Blog will be a place where master gardeners are encouraged to 'talk shop.'" David also noted that the blog can be a place for EMGs to interact around blog post topics that may highlight many master gardener activities including:

- * Project ideas, successes and learning points
- * Educational opportunities and curricula
- * Contributions to the public good (value and benefit)
- * National updates and events

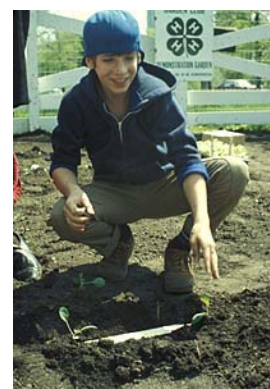
In addition, David noted that collaboration via the EMG blog could lead to more cross-state and regional cooperation on projects and provide expanded learning opportunities for master gardeners. "Hopefully they will share and discuss researched-based knowledge from different land grant universities related to their project and volunteer opportunities. Another equally important component of utilizing the EMG blog is to reach audiences who primarily use blogs and the Internet for communicating or getting information," she said. The program can also be followed on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/EXEMG>.



THE SOUTH DAKOTA 4-H HORTICULTURE PROGRAM NEEDS MASTER GARDENER HELP!

In 2007, 4-H Horticulture set a goal to send our top senior division team to represent South Dakota at the 2010 National Junior Horticulture judging contest. During the current 4-H year we will be identifying our top team of four teenagers for this honor. Our program has been developing beautifully and the national contest is coming up in October! Perhaps you didn't know it, but we have over 2,000 kids who are learning about horticulture in our South Dakota 4-H clubs — all across the state!

The 2010 National Junior Horticulture Convention and Contest is a four-day event held in Cleveland, Ohio. To take our champion South Dakota 4-H Horticulture judging team will require a budget of \$7600.00. Your help is needed. How about boosting our effort with a gift? Your sponsorship will help make NJHA convention attendance for South Dakota youth a reality.



What do 4-H members learn about Horticulture for state and national level competition?

- Plant Parts and Nomenclature
- Environment and Horticultural Plants
- Fruit and Nut Production
- Greenhouse Structures
- How to assess the best quality vegetables, fruits, houseplants and landscape plants
- Plant Nutrition and Propagation
- Vegetables and Garden Flowers
- Landscaping & Managing Turf, Trees & Shrubs
- Commercial Horticulture Production

National contestants also need to correctly identify plants, foliage, fruits and seeds from a long list of trees, shrubs, vegetables, fruit, nuts and berries.

A challenge to all South Dakota Master Gardener groups!

The Prairie Partners Master Gardeners have written a \$500 check to help the top South Dakota 4-H horticulture judging team get to the national contest. They challenge other Master Gardener groups to match or exceed that gift. Individual donations are encouraged as well.

Sponsorship checks can be sent to the 4-H Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity, so your donation is tax deductible. Be sure to designate that it is for the National Horticulture Judging Contest.

Make checks payable to “**South Dakota 4-H Foundation**” with designation for the “**National Horticulture Judging Contest**” and send to:
 South Dakota 4-H Foundation
 Box 2207E
 South Dakota State University
 Brookings, SD 57007

Thank You!

Greetings from Fall River County

Our group awarded Elaine Anderson a certificate of appreciation from SDSU Cooperative Extension for her outstanding service with more than 15 years of volunteer work. Elaine has been state president twice.

On May 11 a class was held at the library gardens on the native plants at the library gardens. Our group planted, labeled, and maintains these gardens. We held a plant walk at the 4-H carnival and again at the library carnival. Winter classes on soils and seed starting were taught. The group helped with the Spring Fling Garden Show which was a resounding success.

We are currently making plans for a garden walk on June 26.

Reported by Marilyn Varick

News from South Central SD Master Gardeners

Hello from the SD South Central Master Gardeners. The elected officers for 2010 are Debby Galloway-President, Mabel Schimdt-Vice President, JoAnn Letellier- Secretary, Katherine Patterson- Treasurer and Donna Adrian- Press Officer.

It has been a difficult year to get everyone together with the weather being so unpredictable. Our group ranges from Long Valley in the west, north to Pierre, to Winner in the east, and from Interstate 90 to Highway 20 in Nebraska to the south. Weather can be quite different over this amount of space. Our January meeting was called due to weather. February had few members present due to the enormous snow amounts. Our March meeting could easily have been called off but some of our farthest members were already on the road when the decision could have been made to cancel. There's nothing like the prairies and their wild weather.

We have great topics and lots of sharing planned for every meeting in 2010. January's meeting topic was New Plants for 2010 by Jeannine Woodward and JoAnn Letellier; February was Garden Travels in South Dakota by Pam Haukaas; March's topic was Seed Starting by Debby Galloway; April was our annual Birthday Bash and we all enjoyed sharing garden info and celebrating birthdays and friendships. The good weather allowed us to have a pruning program in Donna Adrian's yard. May was our annual White River Museum Benefit Plant Sale. In June we had a great three-day trip to Clarkson, NE, planned. We were going to stay overnight, tour the green houses, talk to various Clarkson personal and hit the retail store just before leaving Clarkson, then travel on to the Nature Conservancy at Nordon, NE, and get a sneak peek and earful of the talk that is planned for the Master

Gardener update later this fall. From there we were to travel to Valentine and take in some local gardens and visit the new green house in Valentine. Well-- due to illness, busy schedules and weddings we couldn't get a good number to go. So we canceled the trip and simply enjoyed a garden tour in Valentine, NE. We met at the home of Sue Rhodes and looked at her garden, featuring lots of sunny plantings and a well established yard. Then we traveled on to Jackie Sholl's yard. Jackie's yard is over 20 years old. She has dealt with shade and partial shade very well. She has lots of yard décor and well established plantings, a very impressive garden on the shores of the lake north of Valentine. We then enjoyed a Dutch treat lunch and looked at the Cherry County Fair Grounds planting. The local master gardeners established the planting many years ago as an improvement for the fair grounds. In the past few years the planting has come into its own and is a very nice addition and welcome at the entrance of the fair grounds.

We are planning more training in July when JoAnn Letellier presents Fair Judging Training. In August Mabel Schmidt will present Managing Plant Disease in the Home and we will be helping to prepare for the Fall Update.

Don't miss the Update to be held September 10-11, 2010 in Winner. *Pheasants in the Garden* will be hosted by Winner Master Gardeners at the Tripp County 4-H Center.

Some of the side lights of the year have been booths at various local activities highlighting the master gardeners and what they can do for you. Donna Adrian is working to promote gardening on the reservation and various members are planning to help with her activities.

Submitted by Debby Galloway

Endowment Board

Board members are selected at the annual Update and serve for a three-year term. The current Vice President serves as the Endowment Board Chair. Thank you for your work!

Robert Spomer	28012 Boulder Creek Rd, Sturgis, SD 57785; bhocrose@aol.com ; 347-2747; 2007-2010
Kathy Behrend	405 W. Walnut St., Parkston, SD 57366; b-hive@santel.net ; 928-3651; 2007-2010
Mel Glover	2513 Judy Ave, Rapid City 57702; mtglover@rushmore.com ; 348-7678; 2008-2011
Pat Nielson	27888 Country Club Rd., Winner, SD 57580; teach@gwtc.net ; 842-2485; 2008-2011
Karen Englehart	14001 180th Ave., Bison, SD 57620; karenllew@sdplains.com ; 244-5402; 2009-2012
Jackie Wilcox	6005 Bakker Park Dr., Sioux Falls, SD 57106; jackiejwilcox@yahoo.com ; 361-4312; 2009-2012
Karin Woltjer	30337 Greenfield Rd., Beresford, SD 57004; karin@iw.net ; 253-2138; 2010 Chair

Celebrating South Dakota State Fair's 125th Anniversary "From Memories to Milestones"

Information from Dianne Gropper, Superintendent, Horticulture Building
South Dakota State Fair
534 Utah Avenue SE
Huron, SD 57350
605.352.0394 :: telephone jdgropper@hur.midco.net :: email address

The South Dakota State Fair will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year in Huron. The State Fair starts Thursday, September 2 and concludes Monday, September 6. This year's theme "From Memories to Milestones" will showcase agriculture, youth, achievement, community, and arts.

The 2010 Horticulture Static Book was available April 1 on the South Dakota State Fair website www.sdstatefair.com. Check it out and consider exhibiting in the Horticulture Building. There are 14 divisions: Fruits; Vegetables; Heirloom Vegetables; Fresh-Cut Flowers; Dried Flowers; Herbs; Houseplants and Planters; Floral Arrangements; Table-Settings and Place-Settings; Native Wildflowers; Grasses; Other Plants. In the Junior Division: Garden Crafts; Holiday Tree Contest; Agriculture. Entries for the Horticulture Building close Saturday, July 31.

I am seeking Master Gardeners interested in volunteering in the Horticulture Building for the 2010 South Dakota State Fair. Volunteers are needed from August 23 through September 7. You may earn Master Gardener hours as a volunteer in the Horticulture Building. During the 2009 South Dakota State Fair, eleven Master Gardeners volunteered 154 hours. Examples of volunteer opportunities available are:

Assisting presenters	Horticulture Building clean-up/set-up/tear-down
Checking in/out exhibits	Assisting judges
Readying exhibits for public viewing	Maintaining exhibits

If you wish to volunteer, please email the information below to me at jdgropper@hur.midco.net

Name:

Address:

Telephone Numbers:

Email Address:

Best time to reach you:

Volunteer assignments you are interested **or** Dates/time you are available to volunteer

Dianne is pleased to announce the outstanding line-up of Horticulture Building presenters available to fairgoers during the 2010 South Dakota State Fair. Master Gardeners may receive continuing education credit by attending presentations in the Horticulture Building. The complete listing can be found on the Master Gardener website, since there was not room to include the topics and presenters in this issue of *Across Prairies and Pines*.



Pheasants in the Garden

2010 Master Gardener Update

September 10 and 11, 2010

Tripp County Fairgrounds

Hosted by the Winner Garden Gate Master Gardeners

Accommodations:

Holiday Inn 1360 E Hwy 44, Winner; 842-2255; \$79.99 single

Warrior Inn 846 E Hwy 44, Winner; 842-3121; \$52 MG update rate

Dakota Inn 501 E Hwy 18, Winner; 842-1440; \$40 single, additional person \$5

Winner Westside 1519 US Hwy 18, Winner; 842-1717; \$48.50 single, additional person \$6

Buffalo Trail 1030 W 2nd Street, Winner; 842-2212; \$50 to \$60

Tobin House and Breakfast East Hwy 18, Winner; 842-2502; \$50 single

Mabel's Lodging 846 Spruce Street, Winner; 842 -2488; \$35 each

Owl Crossing 26544 313th Avenue, Ideal; 842-0114; \$50 with breakfast

Rodeway Inn and Suites 902 R Hwy 44, Winner; 842 -0991; \$49.99, additional person \$5

Photo Contest Categories & Rules:

Quirky Species: Unusual surprises from Mother Nature.

Whimsy: Includes pets and kids in the garden, garden art, wild animals, anything fun and unusual.

Flowers and Vegetables: Includes roses (shrubs and climbers-all varieties).

Trees, Shrubs, Vines

Theme gardens: Fairy gardens, herbs, roses or interesting landscapes.

☼ The quality of your photos can vary from original prints developed at a photo shop to computer and copier generated prints.

☼ Each photo entered must be no smaller than 5 x 7 and mounted on white poster board or card stock weight paper with a 2 inch border around each print. (7 x 9)

☼ Each entry must specify a category. Put your name on the back of the mounting.

☼ Prizes will be awarded for best in each category. Voting will be "people's choice" as you vote for best in each category.

☼ Ballots will be in each registration packet. Votes will be at the end of the Saturday afternoon break.

☼ Questions? Contact Nichi Brinda; 842-0499; janzfish@gwtc.net

Pheasants in the Garden

2010 Master Gardener Update Agenda September 10 and 11, 2010

Friday September 10 :: Tripp County Historical Society

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm East Hwy 18

Welcome to Winner! Join us for hamburgers and snacks on the lawn. The museum will be open. Bring a lawn chair if you can.

Saturday September 11 :: Tripp County Fairgrounds

7:30 am – 8:30 am **Registration Desk Open**
Check-In Silent Auction Items and Photographs

8:30 am **Greeting from Mayor Jess Keesis**
Opening Remarks Dr. Rhoda Burrows

8:45 am – 9:30 am **Ecosystems of the Niobrara River**
By Tracey Nelson, Nebraska Conservancy

9:30 am – 9:45 am **Break bid at the silent auction & vote on photographs**

9:45 am – 11:45 am **Premier Plants Man of the Plains and Prairies**
By Harlan Hammernick, Bluebird Nursery

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **Lunch**

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm **Preservation of Garden and Orchard Produce**
By Ann Schwader, Extension Educator, Family and Consumer Science

1:45 pm – 2:00 pm **Break bid at the silent auction & vote on photographs**

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm **Premier Plants Man of the Plains and Prairies**
By Harlan Hammernick, Bluebird Nursery

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm **Break bid at the silent auction & vote on photographs**

3:15 pm – 4:00 pm **Business Meeting**

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm **Break silent auction and photograph voting ends**

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm **Breakout Sessions**
Out of the Wild Pheasant Feather Decorations
By Betty Dvorak, Feather Artist
Digital Blue Microscope
By Rick Abrahamson, Horticulture Extension Educator

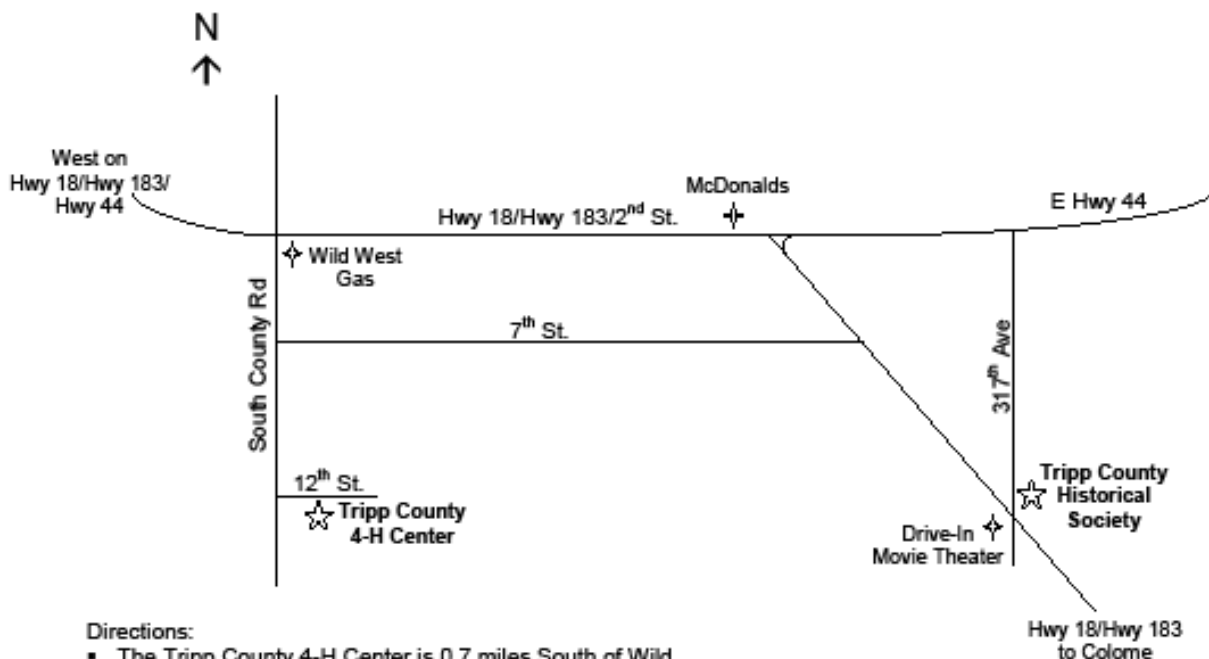
5:00 pm **Pick up Photos and Pay for Silent Auction Items**

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm **Garden Tour**
Sponsored by Winner Town & Country Women's Club of Winner

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm **Banquet**
Photo contest winners announced
Comedy Entertainment by "Rosie", Joan Haffield

Pheasants in the Garden

2010 Master Gardener Update
September 10 and 11, 2010



- Directions:
- The Tripp County 4-H Center is 0.7 miles South of Wild West Gas on South County Rd.
 - The Tripp County Historical Society is 2.3 miles East of Wild West Gas on Hwy 18/ Hwy 183. Keep to right at the Y near McDonalds

Garden Gate Master Gardeners meet on the third Thursday of each month at MEMS Embroidery. With the planning of the 2010 update on September 10 and 11, we meet twice a month.

Plans are coming along quite well for the Master Gardener update. We are having Harlan Hammernick from Blue Bird Nursery as the main speaker. Other speakers are Tracey Nelson from the Nebraska Conservancy in Johnstown, Nebraska and Ann Schwander, extension agent from Gregory County. There will a Tour of Gardens, two break out sessions: Decorating with Pheasant Feathers and Digital Blue Microscope demonstration. Friday night's social will be held at the Museum. The museum will be open for tours. Other activities are the Photo contest, Silent Auction, and the Auction after the banquet. Prizes will be given for bringing back 2010 invitation for the update and prizes given during the sessions on Saturday.

Community projects planned for this year include having a community garden, landscaping at the Museum, planting at the hospital healing garden, planting the 4-H center flower bed and landscaping at the museum rural school. We had a bake sale during Easter week and the profits will be used to help defray expenses for the Update. We are working very hard on the Update and hope to see you all in September.

Submitted by Mabel Schmit



Pheasants in the Garden

2010 Master Gardener Update

September 10 and 11, 2010

Tripp County Fairgrounds

24243 407th Avenue :: Winner, South Dakota

Hosted by the Winner Garden Gate Master Gardeners

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Master Gardener Group: _____

General Registration: **\$60.00**

includes Friday night social, breaks, lunch
all mg sessions and Saturday banquet

Saturday Banquet for Guest(s) \$20 x _____ = _____

Late Fee due after August 31st \$10 _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Would you like a receipt? yes _____ no _____

I am bringing silent auctions item(s) yes _____ no _____

I am participating in the photo contest yes _____ no _____

I am attending the Friday night social yes _____ no _____

I am going on the Garden Tour yes _____ no _____

Please Choose One Breakout Session

_____ Digital Blue Microscope _____ Pheasant Feather Decorations

Send Completed Registration Form and Payment to:

Garden Gate Master Gardeners

c/o Nancy Storms

30162 300th Avenue

Winner, SD 57580

NO REFUNDS after SEPTEMBER 3, 2010

Questions? Contact Nancy Storms; 557-337; boxesranch@yahoo.com

Mabel Schmit; 842-2488; memsmm@gwtc.net

Do you have an Email account?

Please contact Kathy Bruckner at the Pennington Co Extension Office.

Call: **605-394-2199 Ext. 111**

Email: ***kathybru@co.pennington.sd.us***

Postal mail: ***601 E Centre Street
Rapid City, SD 57701***

Switching to the electronic newsletter has three advantages:

- 1: It is in COLOR,
 - 2: You get to read the newsletter when it is "hot off the press,"
 - 3: You can save the state Master Gardener organization some money.
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