

A newsletter for
Master Gardeners in
Dodge County and
surrounding areas

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln[®] EXTENSION



Growing Up

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UNL Extension In Dodge County
1206 W. 23rd Street • Fremont, NE • (402) 727-2775

Fall 2013

Hello Master Gardeners!

I hope everyone had a great growing season. It seemed that once the sun came out after the spring rains, the gardens really popped. I'm still harvesting tomatoes, and I'm sure some of you are as well. This season was in stark contrast to the drought we had last season, and the rain is always welcome. Remember we will see effects of drought on our plants for years to come. As the growing season draws to an end, take note of anything that might be too stressed to make it through the winter. Plan accordingly with drought-tolerant plants for replacements

-Natalia

Nebraska Master Gardeners Are Now on Facebook

Keep up with events statewide

- Go to www.FaceBook.com and create a free account.
- Then search for "Nebraska Master Gardeners" and become a "fan."

Each time you log into your account you will receive updates, news and current MG events.

Master Gardener Harvest Potluck and Seed Exchange

November 6, 2013

1206 W. 23rd, Fremont, NE

6:30 pm

Please RSVP to nbjorklund3@unl.edu or call 402.727.2775

Extension is a division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture

Volunteer Opportunities, Continuing Education, & Horticulture Events

Fall Plant Sale

Nebraska Statewide
Arboretum
Lincoln, NE
October 18 and 25
402.472.29.71

Composting Workshop

Lancaster County Extension
Office
October 9 or 12th
402.441.7180

Maxwell Arboretum Fall Festival

UNL East Campus
October 10th
402.488.5568

Lauritzen Gardens Fall Chrysanthemum Show

Omaha, NE
October 5-November 25
402.346.4002

Lauritzen Gardens Poinsettia Show

Omaha, NE
November 29-Jan. 5
402.346.4002

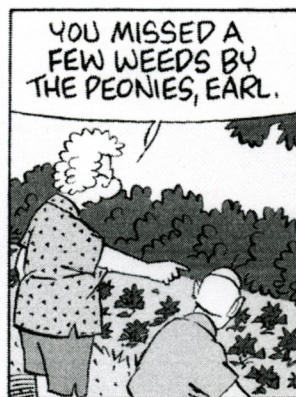
Heirloom Apple Tasting (Sponsored by Seed Savers)

October 6th
9050 NW 62nd Avenue
Johnston, Iowa
563.382.5990

Nearby farms for apples,
pumpkins, etc.

Martin's Hillside Orchard
2024 Ashland Road
Ceresco, NE
402.665.2140

Harvest Moon Farms
1410 Hwy 77
Oakland, NE
402.685.5409



Harvesting and Storage of Potatoes

by Lorraine Urban

What a year for gardening! Rains came. The sun shone. Vegetables grew! It's been wonderful. But what to do with all of the harvest...

Did you grow potatoes? We've harvested about 2/3 of the crop. So far we've been able to use them as we dug them. Now that we're into fall, and winter is next, we'll need to dig the rest before the ground freezes. If the "undug" potatoes are as abundant as the ones we've already harvested, we'll have some to store for later use.

We'll sort the potatoes into two piles: those we plan to use right away that were

damaged in digging or are partially green from sun scald, and those that are without defects which should store well. We'll pack them in paper sacks, burlap bags, or place them on trays to keep them dry, and cover them to keep out the light. Light exposure can shorten storage time.

Cool temperatures of 40-50°F. are best, but we don't have any place that cool where the temp will reliably stay above freezing. So we put ours in the coolest, darkest, driest place we have – our basement furnace room. We'll be sure to check them every week or so and remove any that are starting to rot.

We may not have enough potatoes to last until spring, but potato soup on a cold winter day will taste even better because we grew the potatoes ourselves.

Don't forget that fall is the time to make notes in your garden journal about which of the potato varieties you planted grew well, were disease free, and tasted good. That will make next year's gardening experience even better.



2013 International Master Gardener Conference**by Rich**

This year I decided to attend the 2013 International MG Conference, simply because I've never attended one, and I'm not getting any younger. I know the term "Bucket List" is overused, especially by us somewhat ancient types, but it is a very real thing. So-o-o, in pursuit of that same list, I decided to cross a few items from the 'list'.

Incidentally, the conference was to be held on a cruise ship bound for Alaska. I was able to

cross 'cruise' off the list, along with visiting the West side of Alaska, seeing whales, porpoises, and orcas, and seeing a glacier and watching a piece fall into the ocean (that is called calving).

My big adventure started with a flight from Omaha to Seattle WA, where I stayed in a suite at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel, and met my room-mate for the trip, a gentleman named David Marshall, a long time master gardener from Toronto Canada.

David turned out to be a very knowledgeable man, but it turns out that we raised very few of the same plants, due to his location actually being warmer than Nebraska.



2013 International Master Gardener Conference

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We boarded our ship, Holland Americas' ship Westerdam, on September 7 at 11:30, went through an extensive safety drill, and departed Seattle at 4:25 pm. The weather was overcast (big surprise) and 64 degrees. We then cruised toward Juneau, Alaska at a speed of about 20 knots, the distance from Seattle to Juneau is about 880 miles. The conference started at 3:45 on Saturday, with a welcome speech, and then kind of a surprise for me, when it was announced that Nebraska and Iowa will be presenting the next conference together in 2015!

The Westerdam

We had a keynote speaker named Roy Cloyd, an entomologist (bug guy) who gave a presentation on "Entomology and Hollywood: History of 1950's Science Fiction. It was quite entertaining, but didn't do much for furthering anyone's knowledge of insects. I'm going to just tell you which classes I took during the conference, these, by no stretch of the imagination were all that were offered. I won't go into detail about the classes, simply because I don't remember all of the information presented. However, we were all given a 'thumb drive' that contains all of the information for all classes given during the conference.

That was in lieu of paper 'handouts' we've gotten used to for most of the classes we take at the extension office.

Conference classes started on Sunday the 8th, I took a class on 'Using Garden Art' given by Beth Betts, a noted landscape architect ; and later that day took a class on 'Common Diseases of Ornamentals, given by a professional horticulturist named Sherrie Smith. At 3:45 each afternoon we had a keynote speaker, and the ones for Sunday were Kathryn Wadsworth and Dr. David Deardoff; their subject was 'Salmon Trees', a presentation on how the trees of the northwest help the



2013 International Master Gardener Conference

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The Sitka Rose

salmon in that area survive, and how the wholesale removal of trees has had a very negative impact on recent salmon harvests.

On Monday, the 9th (which incidentally was my birthday, I even got a card from the captain of the ship) I attended a class on 'Bees: Diversify the Harvest from Your Garden', presented by Anne Edwards, a noted garden author. A side note, this class was held in a part of the ship called the 'Crow's Nest' which was the topmost interior area of the ship.

The class was facing away from the wrap around windows of this area, and during the class several pods of whales went by, and whenever that happened, the instructor would say, "There she blows!" and we would all crowd the windows to view the whales. My next class was 'Growing Great Tomatoes' presented by Dr. Rich Snyder.

At noon that day we docked in Juneau, Alaska. The weather was partly cloudy and the temperature was 54 degrees and a little damp. While in Juneau, I stopped at the visitor's center and found out about a place called, "The Tongass National Forest. It covers about 17 million acres which makes it the largest National Forest in the United States. The entire lower peninsula of Alaska, except for Glacier Bay

National Park, is in the Tongass National Forest. I took a bus tour of that part of it around Juneau, the size of the trees and the wildlife were just amazing. After the bus tour I took a ride on the Mount Roberts Tramway, which takes you to the top of Mount Roberts, overlooking the town of Juneau and part of the bay. Once again the scenery was magnificent, the trees huge, and this time the wildlife caged. When I got back down I took a trip through the visitor's center and then went over to the Cooperative Extension Office. I found that extension offices don't vary that much wherever you go. I brought back a list of publications, just like what we have in our extension office. Some of the titles are even similar. We left Juneau at 9:45 that evening and headed to Glacier Bay, which was the coldest part of the cruise. We arrived in Glacier Bay about 9:00 a.m. on the

2013 International Master Gardener Conference**(continued)**

The skies were overcast and the temperature topped out at 43 degrees that day. On a historical note, just 250 years ago Glacier Bay was all glacier and no bay. A massive river of ice, roughly 100 miles long and thousands of feet thick occupied the entire bay. I went outside on the top of the ship to see some of the glaciers, thank goodness the

wind wasn't blowing. We later heard that we had some of the best viewing weather, since it wasn't raining, and the clouds were fairly high in the sky. That day I attended a class about 'Garden Hens, Diversify the Harvest from Your Garden Space', it was presented again by Anne Edwards, the lady that gave the Bee classes.

View within Glacier Bay National Park

Later that day I attended a class called, 'Balance of Nature: Beneficial Insects in the Garden', presented by Ray Cloyd. In the afternoon I attended a class about 'Florida Keys Fabulous Plants and Insects', presented by Kim Gabel, an extension educator from Key West.

2013 International Master Gardener Conference

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Our keynote speaker that evening was Rose Marie Nichols McGee, who talked about 'Beautiful Containers'. She and her husband run a nursery in Albany Oregon, and have been in business since 1950.

On Wednesday, September 11th we stopped in Sitka Alaska all day long. The harbor wasn't deep enough to dock the ship, so we took the life boats between the ship and the shore. It was a nice day with light breezes and 61 degrees. While in Sitka, I took a guided tour presented by the Sitka Master Gardeners. We started at the Harrigan Centennial Hall and toured gardens most of the day. I really like the gardens at the Sitka Pioneer's Home, that at one time was an Army Post, guarding Sitka from who knows what. One of the highlights of the Pioneer's Home is a

hedge of 'Sitka Roses'. The 'Sitka Rose' is a seldom seen strain of rugosa, a native of Japan, and was bred in Sitka, Alaska. We weighed anchor shortly after 3:00pm and set out for Ketchikan. Our keynote speaker that evening was Doris Ott Whealy of the Seed Saver's Exchange. She is the grand-daughter of the founder of the Seed Savers Exchange. Thursday, September 12th we docked in Ketchikan Alaska at about 6:30am. We were in port until about 1:00pm. While in Ketchikan I took a bus tour around the town and up into the hills surrounding Ketchikan. We went to a place called the 'Totem Heritage Center' where we saw a lot of totem poles and had some of them explained to us. Also I visited a totem pole carving facility. It

takes a long time to carve a totem pole, and the guy that carves them gets \$3,000.00 a foot for his work. I always felt I was in the wrong business. We then took a walking tour of Creek Street. The sidewalk there is a series of wooden piers that overhang the creek. Turns out that Creek Street was the "Red Light District" of Ketchikan. The downtown part of the city is unique since the nearly three blocks of the town near the docks is on piers. In this part of Alaska, there is hardly any beach near the water, so as the city grew, they had to create real estate. I noticed a lot of dead salmon since the spawning run was going on as we were there. Anywhere you looked there were thousands of salmon swimming upstream to spawn, and as soon as that happens the fish die.

2013 International Master Gardener Conference

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When I got back on the ship, I attended a class on 'How to Use Your Digital Camera', presented by John Giesmann, a noted landscape, flower, and insect photographer. After that class I attended another about 'Saving Water: What Makes 'Smart' Irrigation Controllers Smart', presented by Michael Dukes, a hydraulic engineer from Florida. Our keynote speaker that evening was Chris Olson, a gardener and interior decorator from Florida. His topic was 'Anything But Ordinary'. On Friday, September 13th, I attended a presentation on 'Growing Perennial Vegetables', by Patricia Cherundolo, who has authored a book on this subject. It was especially interesting, as a number of the vegetables she discussed can be grown here in Nebraska. Later that day I attended a class on 'Rain Gardens: The Gardens of the Fu-

ture', presented by Mike Payne. In between this class and the next one, I attended a culinary class on making cinnamon rolls that was put on by the ship's company. I then went to a class on 'Azaleas: History, Tradition and Innovation', presented by Buddy Lee, a representative from Encore Azaleas.



By 6:00 p.m. we had reached Victoria, British Columbia, where we docked for about 8 hours. I went ashore and took a short bus tour of Victoria, which incidentally is a very beautiful city. I didn't stay too long, since I'd spent a couple of days there about a month ago. The next morning, Saturday, September 14th, we docked in Seattle, went through customs and entered the United States. The total mileage for the trip was 1,943 miles. I spent that afternoon and evening back at the Seattle Sheraton, and had supper at my last luxury dining facility for a while, the next morning I boarded a plane for Omaha. The time spent on the cruise ship was just great. Some of the very best food I've ever eaten, and the quality was as good the first meal as it was for the last meal.

2013 International Master Gardener Conference

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If you can't put on your "freshman fifteen" the first couple of days on the ship, something's really wrong. Every evening there was a Las Vegas equivalent show for an hour to an hour and a half. My room-mate David and I would go to the top deck, called the crow's nest every evening where there was a musician playing, where there was a huge library, a bar and a Starbucks type coffee shop. You could just read, watch the lights, use the 10 computers available, or just sit and talk. If you wanted to gamble there was a casino, if you wanted to swim there were 2 indoor pools and one outdoor pool. It really put you in the lap of luxury. The ship sailed with 2125 guests, 950 were Master Gardeners. If you hadn't already guessed, I had a great time, and am looking for-

ward to the 2015 conference in Omaha/Council Bluffs. Happy Gardening, Rich



Alaska's State Flower,
the wild forget-me-not,
Myosotis alpestris

* Note *

The 2015 International Master Gardener Conference will be a joint effort between the Master Gardeners of Nebraska and Iowa. Below is the logo you will see for the 2015 conference. More information will be coming shortly, so if you'd like to serve on a committee, or help with planning, volunteering, etc., watch our newsletter. The 2015 International Master Gardener Conference is also on facebook, if you'd like to follow there.



Gardening at Lunch Webinar Series

Gardening at Lunch is a program that will be given by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension. Gardening at Lunch is a webinar based program that is delivered on the first Tuesday in October, November, February, March, April and May. The programs will be given live, on the web, from 12:05 to 12:55pm CDT on November 5, February 4, March 4, April 1, and May 6. Registration will be taken up until the program begins each week. To be a part of these great programs, you must first register online. Go to marketplace.unl.edu/extension and click on Educational program registration. The costs of these programs are \$10 each or buy all 6 programs for only \$50. You must pre-register for each program and you will need a computer with internet access and a phone to participate. You will be able to listen, view and interact with the speakers during each program.

'Fall Invading Insects' is the second program on November 5 and is given by Nicole Stoner, Extension Educator in Gage County. Fall is the time of year when many different insects will begin to invade our homes to avoid the horrible winter conditions. In this program you will learn what insects may invade your home, how to identify them, and how to control them if they do become a problem in your home.

'Small Fruits' is the third program on February 4 and is given by Vaughn Hammond, Extension Educator at the Kimmel Education and Research Center in Nebraska City. Vaughn will cover some common and not so common small fruits. He will compare several different types of brambles and briefly describe the characteristics of Saskatoon berries, Honeyberries, Aronia berry, Elderberry, Cornelian cherry and bush cherries.

'For The Birds' is the fourth program on March 4 and is given by Paul Hay, Extension Educator in Gage County. The sights and sounds of Southeast Nebraska birds along with Nebraska bird research results are part of this fast paced lunch experience.

'8 Steps to a Better Lawn' is the fifth program on April 1 and is given by Zac Reicher, Professor of Turfgrass Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Turf areas often make up the majority of a landscape and thus dramatically affect the overall appearance of the property. From proper mowing to fall fertilization to controlling white grubs, we'll cover the essential steps to manage or improve your existing lawn. Whether you chose to spend considerable time and effort on a lawn or the minimum required,

these 8 simple steps will help you better manage your lawn.

'Gardening for Pollinators' is the sixth program for the year on May 6 and is given by Natalia Bjorklund, Extension Educator in Dodge County. Do you want to encourage pollinators to visit your garden? Wait, what is a pollinator? And why should you want them? Learn all about pollinators and their benefits at the final session of Gardening at Lunch for spring of 2014.

If you want to join this program but do not have a computer, check with your local Extension office to see if they can set up an area to show it to those who would like to join in the program but don't have access to a computer or the internet at home, work, or the library. Be sure to come early or call ahead so that you can get registered for the program before it begins.

Join us throughout the growing season over your lunch hour for our Gardening at Lunch program. If you have any additional questions you can contact Nicole Stoner at Gage County Extension (402)223-1384 or by email at nstoner2@unl.edu or Natalia Bjorklund at Dodge County Extension (402)727-2775 or by email at nbjorklund3@unl.edu.