

The Green Patch

What Projects Keep our Master Gardeners Busy?

Within this edition, some members of the Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners shared various projects at which they volunteer their time and talents. This is just the tip of the iceberg of the many volunteer opportunities of the group. There are so many more projects that keep the members busy and they all deserve a huge **THANK YOU** for the many hours they volunteer!

Also, they share their garden bounty with fairgoers by exhibiting at the area county fairs.

October 2015

The Rededication of the Madison, NE Historic Barnes Park.

By Carolyn Lingenfelter, Madison County Master Gardener

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Yes, one of our own Master Gardeners has had a big hand in a very big and ambitious project.

On June 20 several members of the Barnes family, the Madison Class of 1965, committee members, and many guests attended an 11:00 am park rededication and luncheon. In 1867 the Barnes family of New York were the first settlers of Madison.

The rededication is only the beginning of many plans for the park. Plans are to change the designation of the park from an Affiliate of the Nebraska Arboretum to an Accredited Arboretum and plant 150 trees by 2017 for the 150th anniversary of Madison. Also add a Heritage Garden designed by Gary Zimmer, a Rain Garden, and an Interpretive Center.

The project doesn't end there. Since the Barnes Reserve Cemetery is part of the park and is located on Madison's 'prettiest hill', dating back to 1874, a meditation area and observation tower are proposed to overlook the town and the beautiful country landscape in the distance.

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Justin Evertson, executive director of the statewide arboretum has guided the 11 member steering committee. Half of the original twenty-nine thousand dollar project investment came from Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District and half from the City of Madison.

Master Gardener, **Denise Trine**, is a big part of this great project in preserving and improving a part of Madison's history. Stop by and enjoy the area and encourage the folks making this happen.

Garden Tours in Wayne and Tilden

By Deb Daehnke, Wayne County Master Gardener

On July 14, Master Gardeners joined a local garden club on a tour of four gardens in the Wayne area. It started east of Wayne at the home of Mark and Jolene Klein of Wakefield and although a scorcher, (we drank plenty of water and tried to stay in the shade), as the sun went down the evening became much more pleasant. Jolene's garden had a variety of perennials and shrubs blooming. Gardeners attended from Pender, West Point, Oakland, Waterbury, Norfolk, Tilden, Winside and Wayne throughout the evening.

The second leg of the tour was the country home of Mary and Brian Heithold. We viewed fairy gardens made by both Mary and her daughter (they had a mother-daughter competition while making them), enjoyed a redecorated shed, saw a sunflower tepee and viewed many colorful flowers and cute garden accessories throughout the yard.

Our next stop was the home of Linda and Wayne Anderson in Wayne. Linda has a beautiful yard with many different flowers but has many varieties of daylilies which are all labeled. This is a gardener's dream to see all the beautiful lilies and be able to record the names of those you really like. She has a wonderful sitting niche in her side yard and a small potting shed and compost bin in the back of the house.

The last stop was the acreage of Mic and **Deb Daehnke**. There were many trees, shrubs, perennials, a large vegetable garden, two rock gardens, a garden shed and several hundred cannas. After a pleasant night of touring gardens, participants enjoyed refreshments on their back deck with a view of the gardens.

Then, on August 11, **Linda Douglas** scheduled a tour of beautiful gardens in Tilden. The first stop was Broberg Organics and their earthworm castings business south of Tilden. We toured his mom's garden and then Brent gave us a tour of their worm shed, an old renovated hog building where the worms live and the worm castings are processed. They use African earthworms and the lights are always on in the building. He told an interesting story of one worm grower who had the lights accidentally turned off one evening. Since it was dark, all the worms came out of their buckets and there were thousands of worms all over the building. This gentleman encouraged Brent to tape over all his light switches as it took extensive time to corral all the worms back into their buckets.

We then traveled back into Tilden and toured more gardens. The gardens were beautiful containing many mature trees, yard decorations, vegetables, perennials and unusual annuals. We viewed a peaceful pond and one home had flags flying around their yard representing the various places their two children had lived, especially their military destinations. One location had a fence covered with many birdhouses and the mature trees on many of the properties really created beautiful settings for the gardens. We viewed gardens at Loren and Bev Broberg, Leo and Myrna Botsford, Devon Kuether, Darrell and Georgia Wyatt, Shirley Leisberg and ended at Linda's home where everyone enjoyed refreshments.

Linda is a master gardener in training and we thank her for developing this lovely tour. And special thanks to all the Wayne and Tilden gardeners who opened their gardens for our enjoyment.



Whiskey Barrel Challenge By Tammy Furstenau, Stanton County Master Gardener

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For the past two years I have had the local 4-H groups participate in a Whiskey Barrel challenge. The seven whiskey barrels are located at the Stanton County Extension office. The challenge this year was inspired by the Color Wheel. Part of designing a hanging basket and/or container garden, is to know your color options, so the clubs were all given the option to use either warm or cool colors from the color wheel.

What a Beautiful display of color and design. Each club was also asked to use a Thriller, Filler, and Spiller in their designs. A thriller creates height and drama to your whiskey barrel, they are the attention getting plants such as colorful foliage, intriguing shapes and dramatic flowers that last all season long. A filler adds mass to the overall composition and more importantly establish a dialogue with the thriller. Spillers are placed just at the edge of the pot and its main job is to sprawl or cascade over the side of the barrel to soften its edges. Each group was also asked to find plants that were unique and maybe not often seen in a container. To my surprise there were a lot of designs created from the cooler colors of the color wheel and all of them were so very different.

The Stanton Garden Club judged the whiskey barrels during the week of the fourth with a tie for first place by Stanton Co. 4-H Shooters and Country Kids. Wildcats were second by only a few points, and third was our newest club, the Wranglers. I am so proud of all the children who participated in the challenge. The clubs first, second and third place winners were awarded with \$20.00 each and a set of 4-H curriculum books.

I am looking forward to next year's challenge, maybe we will do prairie flowers! Happy Gardening!



Pickled Dilled Green Beans

Served by Deb Daehnke at the Wayne Garden Tour

Place 1-2 dill heads in bottom of each pint jar.
1 clove garlic in each jar

*4 cups of 5% white vinegar
4 cups of water
1/2 cup canning salt or pickling salt (I used Morton All Natural Canning and Pickling Salt)

Mix vinegar, water, and salt and bring to boiling. Pour solution into each jar leaving 1/2" head-space. Use knife to gently poke around in the mixture to remove air bubbles.

Wipe off rim of jar.
Place flat lids and rings on jars and lightly tighten the rings.

**Place jars in boiling water bath, covering with at least 1" water. Boil for 5 minutes. (Make sure water is boiling before placing in water bath. You don't want the beans to cook)
Remove after 5 minutes and place on wire racks to cool.

Can add 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes and 1/2 teaspoon mustard seeds. (I did not add either.)

Be sure to use 5% vinegar. This is what the recipe called for and I have read the percentage of the vinegar can affect a recipe.

Have all materials ready before you start. Keep jars and flat lids sitting in pans of HOT water.

Depending how compactly I can pack the dill, clove and beans, this makes 5-7 pints of dilly green beans.

This makes a nice, crisp, slightly dilly bean.

Master Gardeners Volunteer their time at County Fairs



Deb Daehnke and Karen Zierke with Wayne County 4-Her, Grace Heithold.

- Deb Daehnke**—Volunteered as Hort Superintendent at Wayne
- Joyce Eucker**—Judged Open Class Floriculture at Wayne
- Marjorie Jansen**—Judged 4-H Floriculture at Pierce
- Jim Laycock**—Judged Open Class Horticulture at Wayne
- Don Liedman**—Volunteered in the Open Class department at Wayne
- Karen Zierke**—Judged 4-H Floriculture and Horticulture at Wayne

The Norfolk Daily News' weekly Gardening column dates to 1983 — and has been a reader favorite over the years, with some readers clipping some or all of the columns. The weekly columns run from March through September. Master Gardeners get volunteer hours by writing about subjects related to gardening. The readers love to read about the Master Gardener's personal experiences with certain plants on what worked, what didn't.

Marjorie Jansen exhibits numerous items in the Open Class divisions at the Madison County Fair. With her flowers, she received 20 Blue, 5 Red, 8 White, and 4 Honorable Mention ribbons. With her vegetables and herbs, she received 3 Blue and 1 Red ribbons.

During the winter months, since she can not be in her garden, she occupies her time with knitting and crochet. This year she won the 2nd Place Elaine Schulz Memorial Award.

The annual award is given to the individual who participates in the open class categories of knitted or crocheted items, Afghans, and needlecraft. The award is based on "quality workmanship". Elaine was proud of the "hand work" and the "tender loving care" each item needed. This fulfills a dream from the past generations of a unique art and she wishes to pass this activity to the future generations.

Thank you Marjorie for sharing your talents and garden bounty with the fairgoers!



Fifth graders plant flowers at Eaton Field

The Wakefield fifth grade class planted flowers around Eaton Field on Tuesday, May 19. This is an annual project for the fifth grade. **Mrs Alice Johnson**, Mrs Deb Garwood, and Mrs Lynnette Haisch coordinate the effort.

Wakefield Republican
Photo

The Garden in Verges Park

By Jeana Ganskop, Elkhorn Valley Museum Director of Education

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Work on revitalizing the garden in Verges Park at the Elkhorn Valley Museum (EVM) in Norfolk began in earnest last spring. In recent years, the garden became overgrown with invasive grasses – it wasn't much to look at! EVM staff began planning the garden with help from Master Gardeners in January. Our big dreams started to materialize on April 22nd when teachers and students from Norfolk High School's Alternatives for Success program teamed up with members of the Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners to relocate the plants that we wanted to keep. It was wonderful having so much help and the students accomplished a lot in just a couple hours!

Once the plants were moved, the Master Gardeners and EVM staff and volunteers began removing weeds and preparing the garden to be planted again.

On May 23rd, the garden received some help from another group, this time employees from TransCanada joined EVM board members as we got our hands in the dirt and removed weeds and grasses from the garden.

During our last big garden work day, on June 16th, we began planting the garden! We now have one bed completely planted with beautiful butterfly-friendly plants, including milkweed for the monarch butterflies! We moved daylilies and let wildflowers grow in the larger area of the garden and now we're enjoying many volunteer sunflowers that have sprouted from fallen bird seed. We appreciate the ongoing help from several Master Gardeners who come in for early morning work to keep the weeds at bay and keep the garden looking its best.

It's amazing how far the garden has come this past year! I love walking out into the garden and seeing all of the butterflies, bees, and other pollinators enjoying the flowers and plants. It's also wonderful to hear how much the visitors enjoy the garden, too! It was a great first year and we look forward to working with the Master Gardeners to continue improving the garden in the years to come.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with this project, especially **Carolyn Lingenfelter, Robin Jones, Marjorie Jansen, Terry Lovett, Teresa Roche, Patrick Jessen-McGrath, Tom O'Gorman, Kurt Schrant, and Bonnie Smith.**

Pictures don't do it justice, so we recommend stopping by and visiting in person.



Elgin Projects

By Connie Dvorak, Antelope County Master Gardener

The three main ongoing projects I work on are Elgin's Centennial Garden, St. Boniface Catholic Church landscaping, and I am part of a women's club that maintains trees and landscaping at the Elgin City Park.

The Centennial Garden was installed with the assistance of the Nebraska Arboretum in 1989 in observance of Elgin's centennial. It features a half wheel spoke design centered on a sculpture titled "Prairie Fire" donated by Herb Mignery, a nationally known cowboy sculptor. It was originally planted with perennials but was allowed to go to ruin after a number of years. It was replanted to grasses by a school group about 15 years ago, when it was again totally neglected. I started working on the garden about 10 years ago, and have planted and replanted perennials and shrubs. It's an ongoing work, some things work and some things don't, just as they do at home.

I also help keep up the landscaping at St. Boniface Church. It was extensively landscaped about 15 years ago with plants donated by my brother-in-law and sister from their nursery in Papillion.

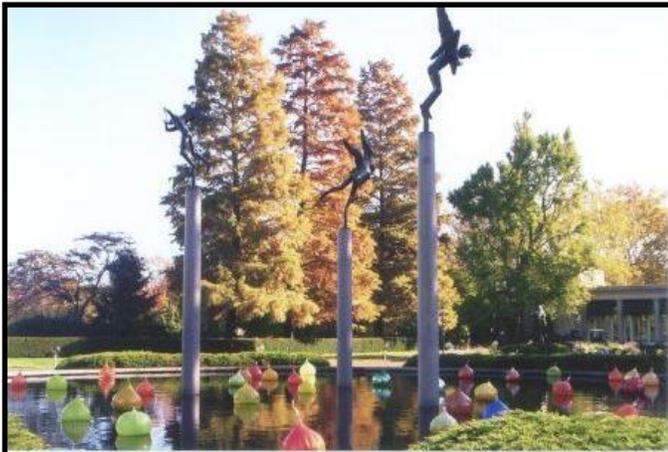
Missouri Botanical Garden

By Bonnie Smith, Madison County Master Gardener

The Shaw's Garden was founded in 1859 by Henry Shaw, a native of England. It is also known as the Missouri Botanical Garden and is located in St. Louis. The garden is 79 acres of urban oasis. It is one of the top three botanical gardens in the world and in 1976 was listed on the National List of Historical Places. Highlights include a 14-acre Japanese strolling garden, the Clinatron geodesic dome conservatory, a children's garden including a pioneer village, and the Henry Shaw's original 1850's estate.

When I visited the Missouri Botanical Garden, it was hosting blown glass artist, Dale Chihuly. His work added interest and was very dynamic. It is a beautiful place to go visit and if you have not been there, you should definitely add it to your bucket list. These two pictures, one is near the entrance and the other is of the Shoeberry Temperate House.

At the November Master Gardener meeting, I will be showing slides and talking about the garden. Hope you all can attend!



This publication, The Green Patch, debuted in April 2009. The Master Gardener's contribute articles every quarter.

Archived articles can be read at:

<http://madison.unl.edu/thegreenpatch>

Naked Lady Lily

By Teresa Roche, Madison County Master Gardener

It's September and time to think about planting bulbs to enjoy next spring and summer. We can always plant more daffodils and tulips, but have you considered planting a bulb that will bloom in the summer, long after the spring blooms have faded into memory?

L. Squamigera, or Surprise Lily, or Resurrection Lily, or Magic Lily or Naked Lady lily is a terrific option. This lily has so many different names that it can confuse any gardener, but once you have seen one grow and bloom, you understand the reason for the many names! Each name makes sense for the same lily. It's a surprising, magical lily that seems to resurrect from the bare ground and since it blooms on a two feet tall stem with no leaves, it seems rather naked too.

These lilies are related to the Amaryllis bulb we frequently grow indoors during the Christmas season, but they are cold hardy for outdoor planting. Surprise lilies prefer full sun but can tolerate part shade. The first September I planted the bulbs—given to me by another master gardener—they were in my iris garden. The next spring they grew their long strappy leaves but didn't bloom. I decided to move them to a different location with more sun. They again grew their long strappy leaves in the spring, and still didn't bloom! I gave up on them! Three long years later, I had a Naked Lady in my front yard! I think the bulbs would have eventually bloomed in their first spot, but I was too impatient. Apparently, the smaller bulbs do need to grow for a few years before they are mature enough to bloom.

These lily bulbs should be planted about 6-8 inches deep in well-drained soil. Because of their stark stems, it's better to plant them in the middle of a garden bed. My Resurrection lily is planted between a Mexican Hat coneflower and a dwarf Goldenrod plant. It certainly was magical when the beautiful pink trumpet flowers burst above the surrounding plants. After blooming, cut the stems back to the ground. If it's been 5 or 6 years, the bulbs can be dug and shared with other gardeners. The bulbs are poisonous and will cause abdominal pain so keep away from children and pets. Wildlife usually leave these bulbs alone.

It's time to think about planting bulbs for next year---consider Surprise/Resurrection/Magic/Naked Lady Lily!



Fall Reflections

By Janelle McIntyre, Platte County Master Gardener

October 2015

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This is a bitter sweet time of the year. Winter relief is coming, when there is not so much to do. Garden projects are coming to an end. Soon the weather will prevent much time outside but I love to be outside—all gardeners do. On the other hand, I look forward to going through garden catalogs and magazines for inspiration, for days not filled to the brim with weeding and watering. But not so fast, there is much to do now!

One of the things I do in the fall is take stock of what made it through the spring and summer. I usually make one last trip to BlueBird to pick up a few perennials to fill the empty spots. Finding the time to get these last plants planted can be a challenge, but it makes next spring a little less hectic. Division of some established plants can be done now as well as in the spring. Vigor of a plant is the deciding factor with me. Whether a plant stays or goes often is based on its vigor. Nebraska is such a harsh environment; we have the very hot and the very cold for our plants to deal with. Some don't survive. Fall is a good time for working with plants, almost as good as spring.

I start a "list" during the growing season for future projects. This list is either acted upon now (fall) or in the spring. Take for instance, this year I will add to my list to move the rhubarb in the spring. The "Profusion" crabapple has gotten so big, the shade it throws has affected the rhubarb. Rhubarb is a sun lover so it must be moved. The good thing is it can be divided into many plants. These are the type of things I put on my list. A "must do" list really. It takes up a couple of pages and rarely gets completely done, but I do try. Some less important projects carry over to another year.

Also before the first serious frost comes, I take a picture of all my beds (six). A picture is worth a thousand words. I especially compare the window boxes from year to year. These are filled with annuals and are the most easily changed. Right now I am into purple and chartreuse plants. So I look for areas that need a pop of color and add this to my "must do" list. All in all, fall is a time of reflection, a time to take stock of what is working and what is not. I hope you don't get as tired as I am right now thinking about all the things I need to do.

Good gardening to you!

International Master Gardener Conference

By Pam Greunke, Support Staff

The 2015 conference was held in Council Bluff Iowa and I attended as a Room Moderator. I was assigned a 'room' so was not able to choose my topics. The top sessions I found interesting were Rainwater Harvesting, Experiential Environmental Education for Youth, and What AILS (Ask, Identify, Look, & Symptoms) Your Plant. They also had displays in the hallway of the winners of the 2015 International Master Gardener Search for Excellence (SFE) awards. It is a recognition program of Extension Master Gardener (EMG) volunteer group work. SFE has seven categories in which EMGs can demonstrate their outstanding contributions to their communities. All SFE applications must show that significant learning took place, whether by the EMGs or the general public with whom they were involved. With all the wonderful projects the Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners accomplish each year, I encourage the group to think about what project they would like to enter for the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference held July 10-14 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland Oregon. Visit the conference blog page at <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/>.



One SFE winner



Attendees playing a game the Virginia Master Gardeners developed for their in school teaching.

Experiential Environmental Education for Youth

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Articles and information for the January issue of *The Green Patch* are due to Pam Greunke (pam.greunke@unl.edu) by December 1, 2015.

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Master Gardeners are people who love plants, gardening, landscaping, and teaching others.



We're on the web at

<https://www.facebook.com/NortheastNEMasterGardeners>

<http://madison.unl.edu/mastergardenerhome>

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What is It?? By Wayne Ohnesorg, Extension Educator

Vicki Wagner was first to correctly respond for what the July *What is it?* was. Tammy Furstenu also answered correctly. The insect in question is one of the three species of 17-year cicadas. This one is *Magicicada septendecim*. They are further broken up into broods that denote when and where they emerge. This year was brood IV and there are currently 13. The nymphs feed on sap from tree roots while the adults will occasionally feed on tree sap from branches.



This large spider was brought into me by a Norfolk resident who found it in their house. If it helps, this spider has eight eyes, some do have fewer. Be careful as you consider what it is as this might be a little trickier than the last spider in this column.

If you think you know, you can give me a call at (402) 370-4044 or shoot me an email (wohnesorg2@unl.edu). Please be as specific as you can. The first person to contact me with the correct answer will be awarded one (1) training hour. Everyone that submits an answer will be entered into an end of the year drawing for a free Extension Circular such as the *Landscape Diagnostic Guide for Problems Affecting Woody Ornamentals and Herbaceous Perennials*. For every *What is it?* column you provide an answer for you will receive one entry. This offer is available for both the Platte County and Northeast Nebraska Master Gardener groups.

