

South Dakota Extension Master Gardeners

Across Prairies and Pines

Fall 2009



Across Prairies and Pines

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Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

December 2009

Gardens, Gardens, Gardens :: Deposit Due 12/4/2009

European Tour with John Ball and April Brooks. Information on page 10.

March 2010

Project Grant and Professional Improvement grant Applications Due March 1.

Grant applications are available on the web: <http://hortmg.sdstate.edu>

March – July 2010

Master Gardener Training Sites

Aberdeen (Tuesdays, May 18-July 13)
Rapid City (Thursdays, Mar 25-May 20)
Vermillion (Thursdays, Apr 29-June 24)

Sioux Falls (Fridays, Mar. 26-May 28)
Miller (Wednesdays, May 19-July 14)

September 2010

South Dakota MG Update ---- Winner, SD
September 10-11, 2010

Pheasants in the Garden The Winner Garden Gate Master Gardeners are hosting the annual MG Update at the Tripp County 4-H Center. The keynote speaker is Harlan Hamernik of Blue Bird Nursery, Clarkson, Nebraska.

Upper Midwest MG Conference ----- Rockford, IL
September 16-18, 2010

Hosted by the Illinois Master Gardener Program at the Clock Tower Resort, Rockford. More details will be available in late 2009 or early 2010. For more information contact [Monica David](#), Illinois MG Coordinator, or visit the [Illinois MG Program website](#).

October 2011

2011 International Master Gardener Conference --- Charleston, WV

October 11-14, 2011

The conference, "Color it Green in a Wild & Wonderful Way," will be held at the Charleston Civic Center. It will have a special focus on "green" gardening and sustainability. We expect to draw more than 1,000 gardeners, horticulturists, businesses and enthusiasts together to learn gardening best practices, share research, and show off products and services.

Email and Postal Mail Address Changes Kathy Bruckner
Pennington Co Extension Office :: kathybru@co.pennington.sd.us

Greetings from the President's Desk

Hello from the prairies of central South Dakota. Bower Ranch, located ten miles north of Vivian, is where I call home. My husband and I farm and ranch. I have an endless supply of enriched soil enhancement taken from the corrals to augment the sticky clay soil.

I completed the MG course in Pierre in July 1999. When it was offered again I took a refresher course. "The more I learn, the less I know." Do any of you feel like that?

We have dealt with unusual weather this year even for SD. Perhaps God made rainy days so that gardeners can get the housework done. The rain produced bountiful crops and gardens and weeds. Sunshine would be appreciated so that harvest could continue. Mud reigns supreme both inside and outside the house this fall.

I am active with the Prairie Potters Master Gardener Club of Pierre and Ft. Pierre area. (Try to say that fast three times.) I also enjoy attending some of the meetings with the South Central Master Gardeners. I'm doubly blessed to have two clubs to visit and learn from. Each club has their own various projects.

My pet project is "Planting Vivian" every spring. I have my own small greenhouse. As soon as I return from

spending winter in Florida, I start seedlings for flowers for the planters in Vivian. These, along with some purchased annuals, go into ten half barrel planters in town. With an eye on the thermometer I try to guess at a good "after frost" planting date in May. The local youth help with planting. Other adults help in maintaining the planters with weeding and watering.

Photography is another hobby of mine. Documenting my garden with photos as it progresses thru the growing season is invaluable. A photo tells me what was planted where, what it looked like, and if the plant was happy where it was located. A photo tells me more than I ever write down.

Our State MG update at Great Bear near Sioux Falls was a wonderful retreat and learning experience. Thank you to all who worked so hard to host the event. We are looking forward to next year in Winner. An interesting agenda is being planned. I'd love to hear from you and learn of your experiences this year. Send me a note, email, or photo anytime. We learn by sharing.

Penny Bower, President



2010 Officers: Penny, Mel, JoAnn and Karin



2009 Officers: Penny, Shirley, JoAnn and Louise with Rhoda and the newly-badged Master Gardeners.

Congratulations!



***Can You Dig It?
Sioux Falls Update***

2009 Update Report

South Dakota Master Gardeners met during the weekend of September 25-26, 2009, at Great Bear Recreation Park in Sioux Falls for the Update. Kicking off the Update was a Friday evening social hour for purposes of greeting, eating and registering. At that time, attendees could drop off items for the Silent Auction and Container Challenge Contest.

Registration and a continental breakfast started off the Saturday morning Update. Next was keynote speaker, David Ode, South Dakota botanist in the Game, Fish & Parks Department. During the break, Winner Master Gardeners passed out invitations for the 2010 Update in Winner. Master Gardeners gathered in the Main Hall again for Mary Ellen Connelly’s guiding us through *Prairie Native Plantings*.

The South Dakota Master Gardeners officers, Shirley Masteller, Penny Bower, Joann Letellier, and Louise Englestad, gaveled us into the business meeting with officer introductions, election of officers, bank account administration, volunteer editor for the *Across Prairie and Pines* newsletter, representatives for the Endowment Fund and other pertinent business. Post-meeting, Dr. Rhoda Burrows presented badges to those Master Gardeners who graduated from intern to Master Gardener status. Those Master Gardeners are as follows:

Gloria Bauske-Flandreau; Mary Lerssen-Sioux Falls; Jim Christensen-Salem; Lisa Loerzel-Hermosa; Mary DeLeeuw-Volga; Marilyn Maloney-Aberdeen; Mary Alice Halvorsen-Yankton; Theresa Nordin-Summerset; Phyllis Harms-Huron; Gail O’Brien-Britton; Mona Hauck-Roscoe; Joyce Orwick-Newell; Glenda Heckenlaible-Harrisburg; Cheryl Schmidt-Rapid City; Deborah Johnson-Sioux Falls; Judy Sparks-Bowman; Sharon Kriz-Geddes; Lon Unterseher-Aberdeen; Ray Kub-Roscoe; Shelley Wray-Sioux Falls; and Yvonne Yoder-Buffalo.

During noon lunch, members could listen to project presentations by those Master Gardeners who received Endowment Fund grants. Master Gardeners presented the following projects: Rapid City Hospice, Grant County Nature Walk, Perkins County Pumpkin Patch, Harding County Seniors and the Teton Coalition.

Keynote speaker, David Ode, introduced the afternoon session with a topic based on his book *Dakota Flora: A Seasonal Sampler*. He was available afterwards for signing his book. For those Master Gardeners who wished to have an autographed copy, the book is available for purchase at www.sdshspress.com.

In the breakout session, Master Gardener attendees had a choice of a walkabout on the Dave Ode Botanical Tour in Great Bear Park or staying in Great Bear Main Hall for a Garden Line Panel with Tom Bare, moderator, and panelists Rhoda Burrows, Mike Cantangui, Norm Evers, Mike Moechnig, and Larry Osbourne.

Silent Auction ended at 5 p.m. and the banquet began at 7 p.m. Post-banquet, the following Master Gardeners received ‘Outstanding Master Gardener’ status:

Bonnie Lynch	Dell Rapids	Louise Engelstad	Rapid City
Elaine Anderson	Hot Springs	Mary Klimczyk	Crofton, NE
Dorothea Blaha	Yankton	Bob Neibergall	Yankton
Denise DeKruif	Mitchell		

Entertainment provided by ‘The Crabgrass Crew’ and Aloma Drum Circle ended the Update.

Reported by Karin Woltjer, Update Chair



Left: Dave Ode signed copies of *Dakota Flora: A Seasonal Sampler*.



Right: Mary Ellen Connelly shared her enjoyment of locating prairie plants while she guided us through the seasons of the prairie.

*Minutes of the Annual Meeting
of Members of South Dakota Master Gardeners
September 26, 2009*

The Annual meeting of the members of the South Dakota State Master Gardeners, was held at Great Bear Main Hall, Great Bear Recreation Park, Sioux Falls, SD, pursuant to the notice to the members, commencing at 11:30AM, CDT on Saturday, September 26, 2009.

The meeting was called to order by President Shirley Masteller who thanked everyone for coming to the update. She followed with introductions of the Executive Board.

President Masteller announced that the minutes of last year's annual meeting were published in Across Prairies and Pines and asked if the members wished to have them read or is there a motion to approve the minutes as published. A motion was made, seconded and upon being placed before the membership, the motion was approved, there upon the President declared the motion carried.

Treasurer Louise Engelstad presented the Financial Report. The Endowment Board will have twenty-five (25) percent of the monies collected between the 2008 Update to the 2009 Update, plus interest on fund principal available for disbursement. Funds available for distribution in 2010 will be \$1600. Any member of the Master Gardeners Organization can apply for financial assistance for an educational horticulture project. The money can be used to help with community projects that provide an educational benefit, such as youth gardens.

Professional improvement grants are also available to individuals planning to attend a seminar, workshop or training. Deadline for applying for Endowment Fund grants is March 1. Noma Sazama made a motion to approve the Treasurer and Endowment reports, seconded by Karen Engelhart. Motion approved.

Tracy Laqua made a motion to pay for retirement gift given to the West River Horticulture Specialist at the 2008 Update, seconded by Karen Meston and approved by voice vote.

Committee Reports:

Penny Bower, Vice President and Chairman of the **Endowment Board** reported for 2009 projects, that the Endowment fund awarded a total of \$1450 in grants to 10 projects and 4 professional recipients. The names of the people involved and their projects were read. Penny Bower said 2 volunteers will be needed to replace outgoing Endowment Board members Karin Woltjer and Lori Seim.

Editors of the Across Prairies and Pines, Tammy Glover and Louise Engelstad, have decided to step down. Their suggestions were for members to keep their e-mail addresses current. Pennington County will no longer be printing those issues that continue to go out by mail. The newsletter is put on the State Master Gardener website by Dr. Rhoda Burrows. Kathy Bruckner, Pennington Co. Extension Staff, maintains the Master Gardener email data base and will email the membership when the newsletter is posted to the web.

New Business:

Dr. Burrows is working out of the West River Ag Center in Rapid City. Her e-mail address will remain Rhoda.burrows@sdstate.edu. or phone 605-394-2236. She announced the names of Master Gardeners who have completed their hours will be receiving their badges.

Tracy Laqua of Pierre volunteered as editor of the newsletter Across Prairie and Pines. Gloria Bauske, Sioux Falls offered to help with the newspaper.

A discussion was held on changing the way funds were advanced to the Master Gardener Club hosting the Update. Mabel Schmit made a motion to advance \$500 to the Update committee for funding and planning the Update 2 years in advance instead of 1 year. Judy Button seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Endowment Board members Karin Woltjer of Beresford and Lori Seim of Watertown terms expire with this meeting. Karen Engelhart of Bison and Jackie Wilcox of Sioux Falls volunteered to serve on the Board for 2009-2012. The Master Gardener Vice President is Chairperson for the Board. Other members are Bob Spomer of Sturgis and Kathy Behrend of Parkston for terms of 2007-2010. Mel Glover of Rapid City and Pat Nielsen of Winner for terms 2008-2011.

Vicky Aughenbaugh, Huron, asked the State Master Gardeners to re-establish their relationship with the State Fair. The Huron Master Gardeners Club would like the support of the State members to pay \$123 for insurance. Vicky Aughenbaugh made a motion "the State Master Gardeners pay \$123 insurance for members manning the Horticulture Booth at the State Fair answering questions." Jerry Mills, Aberdeen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jane Faulstick, Custer presented a check from Custer County Master Gardeners to the Endowment Fund.

Beverly Heidelberger from Spencer reported on "Pennies for Pines" Take Care of the Earth. Their program replaces forest trees destroyed in our National Forests.

Dr. Burrows, Coordinator, recognized the new interns attending the Update. She said 112 new interns were trained at 5 sites for 2009. Over 4400 volunteers hours were sent in to Master Gardeners. Good job. A reminder: **do continue to send those hours into Dr. Burrows.**

Sites for training in 2010 are set for Aberdeen, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Miller and Vermillion.

Dr Burrows had copies of "Managing Plant Diseases" to pass out to Master Gardeners.

President Masteller thanked the Sioux Falls Master Gardeners for an informative and educational update. Everyone needs to keep September 10 and 11, 2010, on their calendar for the Update in Winner, SD. Come join the Garden Gate Master Gardeners as they host the Update "Pheasants in the Garden" with keynote speaker Harlan Hamernik of Blue Bird Nursery, Clarkson, Nebraska.

She then adjourned the meeting.

JoAnn Letellier
Secretary

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 Grenfield Rd., Beresford, SD 57004; karin@iw.net ; 253-2138; 2010 Chair

Greetings from the Northeast . . . Prairie Partners



Rain or shine the 29 members of the Prairie Partners Master Gardeners have had an educational and productive summer filled with volunteer activity.

Brown County Fairground activities for 2009 began with clean up of the entrance beds on April 25th. The Spring Planting Party followed on May 23rd. The three beds were maintained throughout the summer. Club members also planted colorful barrels of flowers that were placed at strategic locations throughout the grounds for the Brown County Fair. Each barrel was a further remembrance of long-time member Candice Kub and contained horticultural “factoids” and a memorial of Candice’s life. During fair week members answered questions on emerald ash borer and shared information about local weeds which had been collected and displayed in the “weed patch” which was part of the club’s booth. Three members judged the 4-H horticultural exhibits.

Yard & Garden Sale, May 16th, an annual event, produced revenue of \$1163 and gave members a chance to label donated plants with basic information including sun or shade loving. It’s a great time to refresh one’s knowledge of plants that do well in our area.

The New Beginnings Garden continues to develop. This year upward of 30 at-risk youth were guided in soil preparation, planting, weeding, watering and harvesting. The 30 by 50 foot garden is now surrounded by an 8 foot fence. That and hardware cloth were instrumental in keeping the critters (deer, bunnies, and gophers) out allowing for the first-ever harvest of radishes, lettuce and carrots. Nutritionist Mary Stehly, helped the kids use their produce to make their very own salsa.

Downtown Beautification and the Tiger Post are ongoing community projects in Aberdeen and Ipswich.

July 27th Extension Horticulture Educator Jerry Mills and 5 members traveled to Brookings for a tour of **McCrorry Gardens** and a telephone answering session with **Garden Line**. McCrorry staff provided an exceptional tour this year, giving detailed descriptions and information on a number of plants that were new to our group. We are thinking there could be a run on the new Tiki Torch Echinacea.

Master Gardener Hot Line. Friday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. Prairie Partner members answered questions called into the Brown County Extension office as well as those from our area that were not addressed during that week’s live Garden Line program.

Gardening with the Masters, our newly initiated workshop program was well received with approximately 35 individuals attending the 2 hour program at the Dacotah Prairie Museum on September 19th. Topics and presenters were: “The Garden” by Renita Kainz; “Trees” by Ray Kub; “Perennials” by Lori Unterseher; “Lawn” by Jerry Mills. Suggestions applicable for fall work in each topic area as well as getting equipment and tools ready for winter were discussed. The audience enjoyed refreshments throughout and had an opportunity to ask questions as part of each presentation.

Seven of our members were able to attend the **State Master Gardener Convention** in Sioux Falls, September 25-26.

South Dakota Master Gardener Endowment Fund. Our annual Christmas Social will be held at the home of Malee and Jerry Rosonke on December 8th. Instead of the usual \$5 gift exchange, each member will be donating \$5 to the Endowment Fund.

As we wind down 2009, we are remembering the questions about blights on the tomatoes and all the newly discovered issues the wet year has given us with plant diseases, and we look forward to the 2010 Master Gardener classes to be held in Aberdeen and Miller.

Reported by Marilyn Maloney

Mobridge Area Master Gardeners

The master gardeners in our area don't do much in the fall. Last summer our most popular classes in the arboretum series were "Trees and Shrubs that do well in our Area" and "Perennials that do well in our Area". The yard and garden tour was also well attended. Hopefully we can think of some good classes for next year. We'll see what the new master gardeners want to do. The pond in the arboretum looked lovely once we found where the water was escaping. More and more people are coming to the arboretum for ideas, which pleases all involved.

Reported by Shirley Masteller

Custer County Master Gardeners

Fall 2009

Once again, the Custer County group had a busy gardening season. We are happy that so many locals took this year's MG training in Hot Springs. We're hoping that the Custerites who completed the training will consider joining our group in the future. MG trainee, Brenda Anderson, was not even through the entire course when she started working on a beautification project at the Custer County Library. The project was a start toward her 50 hours of "payback" time. She completed a nice design and implemented perennial bed near the entrance to the library. If Brenda had not taken the project on, the bed would have been just covered with rock, which would be pretty boring! The flowers and plants Brenda planted in the bed give a really nice, welcoming look to the library. Since she labeled them all, the planting serves as an educational tool. In July, Ingrid Grimes held a mixer so we could meet the trainees, which was very much appreciated by those who attended!

In early June, some of the group went on the second annual tour to Homestead Nursery and Garden in Belle Fourche, which was led by Tom Thorson and Rob Simon. Tom and Rob also hosted our August meeting with a tour of their garden, followed by a brown bag supper and business meeting. Their garden is spectacular with many out-of-the-ordinary plants and themes.

As usual, July was a very busy month for our group. On the 12th the Mile High Garden Club hosted its Avis Hesperen Memorial Garden Tour, and four of the six stops on the tour were related to Master Gardeners. The stops included MG Mary Swanson's garden, MG trainee Brenda Anderson's garden, The Courthouse Museum garden (planted and maintained by our group), and MG Helen McGranahan's garden. Attendance was good, with 39 participants stopping at the McGranahan place.

Attendees were very enthusiastic and had a lot of really good questions and comments.

Mary Hoover and Norma Young put together a really neat entry for us in the Custer Gold Discovery Days parade. They cleverly made a "compost woman" who rode proudly in the back of a convertible. Staying with the Gold Discovery theme, "compost woman" had a sign that said "Compost is a gardener's gold" along with a Master Gardener banner. The parade is good exposure for the Master Gardener program, because it seems that many of the locals view the Garden Club and Master Gardeners as synonymous organizations.

Once again, Marge McColley and Doug Hesnard headed up the annual plant swap at the Custer County Fair. Participants donated more plants (237) than they wanted to take home, so there were extra plants. After all the tickets were used up, everyone had the opportunity to go through again and take what they wanted, but were asked to give a donation to the Fair Board. One lucky participant received a door prize.

Early this fall the Master Gardeners partnered with Mile High Garden Club to plant a tree at the Courthouse Museum in memory Avis Hesperen, who for many years was a leader and mentor for many of the members of both organizations.

Other than the above listed activities, the Custer County Master Gardeners continued to offer their time and support to our usual projects which included assisting with planting and maintenance of the flower boxes at the Y, maintaining the Courthouse Museum flowers, sponsoring the spring display at the Custer County Library, writing the "From the Garden" column in the Chronicle, and answering garden questions from the public.

Reported by Joanne Mason

Congrats Joanne :: Early Bird Award Winner!

Joanne was the first Reporter to submit a news article for the Fall *Across Prairies and Pines*.



Pennington County Master Gardeners News

Pennington County Master Gardeners enjoyed a busy summer and early fall. On July 12th, the annual Rapid City Garden Tour, sponsored by local Master Gardeners and the Rapid City Garden Club, welcomed around 500 people into the gardens of, among others, Master Gardeners Pat Clanton Handel and her husband Art, and Mel and Tammy Glover. The event was chaired by Master Gardeners Helen Magnussen and Shelly DeBord. Local Master Gardeners and garden club members acted as hosts in the gardens to answer questions.

During the Central States Fair in August, Master Gardener NanCee Maynard acted as Co-superintendent, with the help of many other Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners give annual prizes for the best entries in open classes by a child 13 years or younger and for the most accumulated points in several categories.

Throughout the summer, Master Gardeners Deb Jensen, Mel Glover and Bill Keck, and Extension Educator Rick Abrahamson, were featured on local TV networks, discussing various gardening topics. They covered everything from spring soil preparation to digging potatoes and making sauerkraut.

Jean Grode and her team of students from St. Thomas Moore High School worked on the Herb Garden in Sioux Park this season. The garden which features culinary and Native American medicinal herbs has been an on-going project for local Master Gardeners for many years.

Louise Engelstad and Brian Barandt, Mary Lou and Glen Paulson, Diane Iverson, and Barb Lee continue to work at improving the landscaping and gardening around the Hospice House. With a grant from state Master Gardeners, the garden around the signs have been completed. Tree cutting and erosion control continue as on-going projects. Two Boy Scouts-- Andy Hanson and Tim Heard -- have made working at the site their Eagle Scout projects.

Sheila Hillberry, Audrey Doyle, and Teresa Treinan contributed to the local efforts for Habitat for Humanity. In the name of local Master Gardeners, they delivered the following items to several new Habitat owners: a bag of grass seed, a hose and nozzle, rake, spade, assorted flower and vegetable seeds, a coupon for up to twelve plants at next spring's Plant Share, a booklet on yard and plant care and a set of Extension bulletins. Audrey also contributed a sprinkling can and some hand tools.

Already, area Master Gardeners are looking forward to next spring's projects. It's nice to put the gardens to bed so we have time to think about and dream about the coming year.

Reported by Tammy Glover



As seen in South Dakota Magazine...

A new daylily hybrid in Wessington Springs' Shakespeare Garden will honor its creators, Clark and Emma Shay, and raise money for upkeep. This newly created plant will be ready to ship in early May, 2010. Gloria Bauske, a writer from Flandreau who spearheaded the effort, plans to plant some of the new lilies beside a commemorative plaque recognizing the Shays, teachers at Wessington Springs Seminary, which closed in the 1960s. They built the garden in 1927 after Emma Shay took a summer trip to England. In 1932 the Shays built Anne Hathaway Cottage, a replica of the home of Shakespeare's wife in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, for their retirement.

For more information on obtaining one, while supporting a great cause... please go to www.slightlydifferentnursery.com ... and click on "Benefit Plants" for details!

Note from Gloria: I recently purchased a daylily from Slightly Different Nursery in N.C. which allowed me to own the entire plant and all the rhizomes as well as name it. I named it Shay's Shakespearean Sonnet and all proceeds from the sales go to the Shakespeare Garden in Wessington Springs. I will plant a cluster in the garden next spring next to a plaque with Mr. and Mrs. Shay's name.

South Central Master Gardeners

The South Central Master Gardener group, give or take a few miles, runs along Interstate 90. Members are from Wood/Winner to Norris/Kadoka and points in between. Traveling is just part of our club member's meetings. In May our regular meeting program was given by Donita Denke. She gave a wonderful program on soils. Deb Galloway taught us numerous ways to propagate new plants in June. The July meeting was rained out. Ila Tucker had worked hard the whole summer, but mother nature liked to water her gardens a lot.

In May several of us took a trip to Bluebird Nursery. Mrs. Hamernik spent quite a bit of time with us. We spent the day touring the gardens, then headed west and stayed overnight at the Nature Conservancy. The next day was a tour of a garden in Valentine. It was great. The people at this garden travel to auctions, buy "stuff" and make it into "things". They had decorated their entire yard with treasures and had great plantings. We enjoyed it very much.



Bluebird Nursery Tour



Winner Community Gardens

SCMG met in Winner at Mabel Schmit's home in August. We toured her lovely garden, had a great lunch and then toured the Community Garden, which is one of the projects the Winner Master Gardeners are working on.

In September we toured JoAnn Letellier's fabulous garden. It never ceases to change. It is a lovely oasis on the prairie.

Reported by Donna Adrian

Minnehaha County News

Hello, MGs.

The second half of 2009 has been just as busy with garden activities as the first half has been. LaVerne Rens and Joanne Bennis kicked off the second half with a 'continuing education' MG road trip to Bluebird Nursery and Omaha's Lauritzen Botanic Gardens on June 12. Linda Pashby and Sandra Pay executed the Garden Tour on July 8. The public enjoyed being bussed to 5 Sioux Falls gardens in the mid and south side areas of Sioux Falls. Both gardens and weather were 'just right'. After the tour, all were welcome to view the community garden at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, which served as the base of the tour.

On July 13, we segued into a 3rd 'Gardening with the Masters' session. Particularly intriguing was Chuck Claussen's hybridizing presentation. Other summer /fall projects during this time were the Extension Office Flowerbed, Children's Garden, Community Gardens, Urban Ag and Zoo Projects. With the South Dakota Master Gardeners Update looming, the Update Committee continues to work the project.



Debi Ulrey Crosby, Chris Zdorovtsov and Karin Woltjer participated in the Urban Ag Harvest Festival in the Pettigrew Heights neighborhood on September 19 in which the neighborhood enjoyed music, food, games, each other and salsa created by Minnie Lee, wife of Daniel Lee (MG intern garden manager).

With a sigh of relief from Update Committee members, Minnehaha County Master Gardeners hosted the 2009 Update at Great Bear Recreation Park on September 25 and 26. Weather was perfect, facilities and food were excellent, and a good time was had by all.

We are ending the year on a high note with the remaining 'Gardening with the Masters' session on October 16 and the last 2009 MCMG (Minnehaha County Master Gardeners) breakfast meeting on Saturday, 11/14, at Hy-Vee Louise with election of officers and Committee member updates. Current President Bonnie Lynch will be handing off the gavel to Richard Dickey, 2010/2011 President. Happy New Year to all.

Reported by Karin Woltjer, Secretary

Gardens, Gardens, Gardens!

Join SDSU Horticulture Professor John Ball and SDSU History Professor April Brooks, Master Gardener Intern, as we visit famous gardens in three lovely European locations.

Where: London, Edinburgh, Amsterdam

When: May 11-20, 2010

What: Kew Gardens, Buckingham Palace Garden Museum, Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, Keukenhof Gardens, The Netherlands and the Dutch flower auction in Amsterdam!



Included: Round trip plane fares from Sioux Falls, SD; Round trip rail fare to Edinburgh; Hotel accommodations (two to a room) with breakfast in each city, tours and tour guides in each garden.

Not included: Transfers (tube and bus fares), lunches, dinners and excursions on your own.

Price: \$2675.00

Deposit: \$500.00 due by December 4, 2009.

Remainder of fare: due by February 11, 2010.

Drs. Ball and Brooks have visited these cities multiple times and can give you great suggestions for things to do on your own and guide you through the intricacies of public transport in three very vibrant cities. Short guides to the cities we visit will be available. During free time, on your own or with a group, enjoy a pint o' bitters with some bangers and mash in London, walk the Royal Mile after a meal of haggis and tatties in Edinburgh, and take a canal tour of Amsterdam after an Indonesian Ristaffel. This will be an adventure to please the eye and educate the palate of the adventurous. Master Gardener Interns and Horticulture students are invited to join us. Space is limited, so don't delay. Book your adventure today!

Questions: april.brooks@sdstate.edu or 605-688-6042.

To join the tour, send your deposit to: April Brooks, Box 504 Scobey Hall, SDSU, Brookings, SD 57007. Please make the check out to SDSU and mark it MG tour.

Prairie Potters :: Hughes & Stanley County



With the 2009 growing season ending, the Prairie Potters are looking back on a busy year of activities and garden duties.

Our ongoing projects include the beautification gardens at Steamboat Park and the Griffin Park entrance. The Bell Tower garden received new annuals and perennials as well as a lot of TLC by the MG's. Fall cleanup was delayed due to rainy weather, but the late warm up at the beginning of November allowed us to get it tidy and ready for another year. Roof repair and some replacement of deteriorated boards will be on the calendar for next spring.



Nanette Dailey, MG class of 1999 and one of the founding members of the Prairie Potters, passed away on May 18 after a 2 ½ year battle with cancer. Nan enjoyed judging at Achievement Days and rolled her sleeves up whenever we made pine cone/peanut butter bird feeders with kids. She served on the City of Pierre Arbor Board for over 10 years. She will be greatly missed. In her memory the Prairie Potters purchased a Nannyberry and two Service Berries to be planted around a memorial bench in the Arboretum.

We welcomed a new member to our group this summer. Tish Gilmore joined us after taking the class in Selby. We are pleased to have her with us.

Achievement Days were held on August 13-15 at the Stanley County Fairgrounds. Cathy Pietz, Donna Lee, Luann Noeske and Elaine Konechne judged the Horticulture division. Vegetable entries were noticeably improved from previous years. We hope that our horticulture workshops for 4-H leaders and members have contributed to the

Nanette at Achievement Days
improvement in their presentations.

Six members attended the MG Update in Sioux Falls. As usual it was an enjoyable and educational weekend.

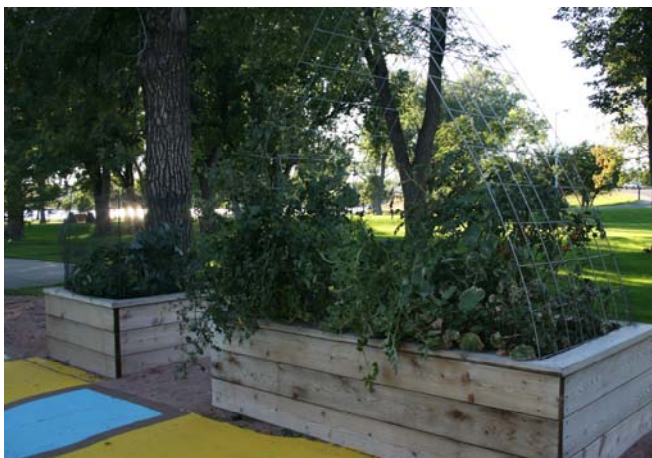
We are proud to have the new state president, Penny Bower and also Tracy Laqua, the new newsletter coordinator from our Prairie Potter group. Congrats and thanks to both!

We had our annual Arboretum open house on October 6. It was cloudy and rainy leading up to the tour but the sun broke through later in the day to show off the fall color. Eighteen people enjoyed the tour.

Luann Noeske and Tracy Laqua contributed two articles on fall garden care to the Capital Journal for their Fall Supplement. They were entitled: Compost/Lasagna Gardening and Fall Chore Checklist. We've been invited to do a few articles on tips for their Spring Supplement also.

The Potters group will spend the winter months planning for next year. We will be ready to get our hands dirty again in the spring.

Reported by Elaine Konechne



Raised beds designed by Ron Schreiner for the Discovery Center's children's garden.



Bell Tower Garden on Pierre Street

Cast Cement Leaves

Renaë Smith's cast cement leaf was the talk of silent auction at the Sioux Falls Update. Renaë graciously agreed to share the instructions. Thank You Renaë!



Materials:

Portland Cement

Fine sand (#1 play sand)

Water

Plastic wrap

Gloves

Bucket for mixing

Hosta, Ligularia, Hydrangea, Rhubarb leaves

(Use any leaf that is sturdy and has prominent veins on the back of the leaf.)

Directions:

1. Make a mound of moist sand, slightly larger than the leaf you are going to cast. Cover the sand with plastic wrap. Shape the mound of sand to fit the shape of the leaf.
2. Place the leaf, top side down, on top of the plastic wrap in the center of the mound. Use your fingers to build up a rim of sand all around the edge of the leaf.
3. In a bucket, add 1 cup Portland cement to 2½ cups of sand. Add enough water to make a mixture that is the consistency of thick icing.
4. Spread the cement over the leaf, using your fingers to push it to the edges. The more you work the edges, the smoother the finish. Continue adding cement until the cast leaf is ¼ inch thick at the edge and thicker in the middle and over large veins.
5. Allow to cure at least 48 hours in a cool place.
6. Turn the cast leaf over and peel off the real leaf. Rhubarb is difficult to remove due to the deep veins. Just keep working at it!
7. Allow to cure at least 2 weeks for indoor use and 4 weeks for outdoor use.
8. Paint the leaf with exterior latex paint for outdoor use. Finish with exterior sealant spray that is for plaster, ceramic or masonry to protect your paint finish.

Notes:

*Concrete Accelerator, found at home improvement stores, may be added to the water. This decreases the curing time and increases the strength of the cement.

*You may use fiberglass wall tape for extra stability for larger leaves or if you plan to hang the leaf. Cut sections of tape and criss-cross all over the cement. Add more cement to cover the tape.

*Cement mixture that is too thick will have a lot of bubbles; cement mixture that is too thin may not cure properly and will be weak.

*You may use craft paints for indoor use, or for outdoor use if you use a good sealant. Another color option is to add cement colorant to the mixture before placing on the leaf.

*Fresh cuts in the leaf may prevent the cement from hardening in that area. Rhubarb is high in sugar, therefore you will not be able to cement over the cut stem. Use plastic wrap, if you desire, to shape the cement over the open cuts.

*Patting the cement after it is on the leaf may dislodge small bubbles, which will give you a smoother finished product.

Tracy's Typings . . .

I hope you have enjoyed this issue of *Across Prairies and Pines*. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tammy Glover and Louise Englestad for their leg-work in getting the newsletter "electronic" and on the Internet. Now we, Master Gardeners, Interns and Horticulture Educators, have the responsibility of keeping *Across Prairies and Pines* moving forward.

There has been some confusion about email/mailling lists. There is only one email/mailling list and it is maintained by Kathy Bruckner of the Pennington County Extension Office. **PLEASE INFORM KATHY IF YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS or MAILING ADDRESS CHANGE.** (kathybru@co.pennington.sd.us) **Email is the only way Rhoda can communicate with everyone across the state in a timely manner.**

Across Prairies and Pines is not delivered to your in-box. When Louise and Tammy started accepting photos, the newsletter became too large for some in-boxes and could no longer be emailed to individuals. You will receive notification that the newsletter is available and has been placed on the MG web page: <http://hortmg.sdstate.edu>

If you, or your Master Gardener group, is not represented in the newsletter, please consider becoming a Reporter. As President Penny said in her column, "We learn by sharing," and "A photo tells me more than I can ever write down." Send in a photo of your project or a list of activities. I know some MG groups are not represented in this issue because I could not find you due to "undeliverable" email addresses. If you are going to be a Reporter in 2010, please email me so I can contact you when it is time to work on the Spring newsletter. (TRACYLQ@PIE.MIDCO.NET)



And lastly, a huge bouquet of THANKS goes out to Kathy Bruckner as she keeps track of us and to Sherry Theobald at the Brown County Extension Office for her work in the postal mailing of *Across Prairies and Pines*. Please thank these gals when you see them in person. They have been very easy to work with over the electronic airwaves. ~ Tracy

Missed the November 1st Deadline? It's never too late to turn in your hours!



Christmas at the Capitol

2009 State Tree

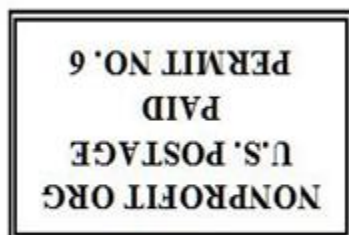
decorated by the SD Florist's Association

Do you have an email account?

Please contact Kathy Bruckner at the Pennington Co Extension Office.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

