

## Iowa County Master Gardener Newsletter – Volume 8

Pat Borcharding - President  
Linda Lynch – Treasurer  
Karen Crawford – Liaison  
Rhonda Gildersleeve – Advisor

Tami Bowser - Vice President  
Virginia Mundt - Secretary  
Brenda Walter - Newsletter Editor

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Hello ICMG's!

I hope everyone has had a terrific summer and has accomplished all of their gardening goals! If it was like my summer, it was tough to keep up. Why does it seem each year gets busier? I missed seeing many of you, but hope to make up for that this next year.

I hope your gardens (and you!) survived the heat, and I know I am very happy that fall is on its way.

Happy Gardening!  
Brenda Walter  
ICMGA Newsletter Editor

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### August 23, 2006 meeting minutes

President Pat Borcharding called the meeting to order.

Linda Lynch, treasurer, reported a balance of \$2032.95. Treasurers' report was accepted.

Virginia Mundt read the minutes and they were approved.

Denise Marino gave a report of the Friends of Governor Doge Park. They need volunteers to pull invasive plants such as sumac in the prairie and garlic mustard in the spring at the park. They meet the second Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM to Noon at the Gov. Doge Park entrance.

Karen Crawford invited all MG's to the Uplands Garden Club trip September 16<sup>th</sup> to Milwaukee. Call Karen for details.

Pat Borcharding announced a tentative MG 2006 fall class schedule on outdoor perennials and houseplants. Pat needs the class fee of \$100 by September 12<sup>th</sup>.

A reminder that dues are \$15 per member or \$25 a couple. Our by laws have not been approved by the state, so our dues remain the same as last year. Karen Crawford made the motion, second by Verna Pilling to keep dues as is for 2007. Motion carried.

Dane County MG's have a garden journal for \$12.50 available to all MG's. Pat Borcharding needs to know soon who would like to order one and she will be picking them up.

Election of officers at the November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006 meeting.

Denise Marino, Mary Mayo and Annie Waitzman were placed on the nominating committee. Virginia Mundt moved to accept them as the committee and Ruth seconded. Motion carried.

Pat Borcharding announced an MG group from West Virginia is having a scholarship fundraiser and would like our group to donate towards it. If we decide to have a fundraiser, they would reciprocate. Pat will send a letter to all MG's to respond yes or no.

Annie Waitzman made a motion to adjourn, second by Karen Crawford.

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia Mundt  
ICMGA Secretary

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From fellow ICMG, Lois Montague:

I walked half of the "Coast to Coast" walk from the Irish Sea to the North Sea in August. I walked with two lady friends from Keld to Robin Hood's Bay, 100 miles in six days. The majority of the walk was in Yorkshire, in heather that was in full bloom. We stayed in different B&B's every night, each one more delightful than the next. The trail was very vague in parts, passing through sheep pastures, farmyards, ruined abbeys, mines, manor houses, and beautiful gardens. The window boxes on the stone houses took our breath away. We were in two National Parks, the land is privately owned, but permission is given to the public to use it. The walk was very civilized, tea between 3 and 4 o'clock in a cozy little tea room, and dinner at 7:00 in a local pub. It was an adventure, we became know along the trail as "the three American ladies". After six days of walking, the final trek along the cliffs of the North Sea into Robin Hood's Bay was pure delight.

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From GADEN GATE'S email tips:

### **Heat-stress symptoms**

Below, you can see what some symptoms of heat stress look like. If you see plants looking like this in your garden, you may need to make some decisions about what to do. Maybe your area is undergoing an unusual heat wave. In that case, the plant will probably be fine when more normal temperatures occur. There may be a little leaf damage, but new growth will hide that. Or maybe your plant is just in too much sun, like the hosta below. If that's the case, move the plant into a shadier spot and it'll bounce back. But some plants just may not like your climate, and in that case, you'll need to find some more heat-tolerant candidates to replace them.



Wilting and stunting, as well as dropping leaves and flowers, are reactions to heat stress, as shown in this fuchsia. You'll notice that new growth is small and stunted. Finally, if the stress on the plant isn't reduced, the root system will shut down. The solution? The plant needs to be moved to a shadier spot and given some water ASAP!



Leaf scorch, caused by too much heat, is what's affecting this hosta. Left in the hot sunshine, some plants will slowly decline. Sometimes keeping the plant well-watered will help out, but this hosta probably would do better in a shadier spot. If you can't move it immediately, you could also fix up some temporary afternoon shade with a box, some lightweight fabric, or a fence panel.



Rotting foliage in the center of this lavender is caused by a *lack* of heat. Without enough warmth, the plant will weaken and possibly die. Warmth-loving plants like this often do best with rock mulch, which helps reflect heat back up into the plant.



In extreme heat, rhododendron foliage droops and rolls to conserve moisture. Left in a heat-stressed condition, flower buds dry up and drop off. Eventually, shrubs will give up. To solve this problem, rhododendrons need organic mulch over their roots to keep them cool and moist. They'll also do best in a spot with morning sun and afternoon shade.

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Thanks to Linda Lynch for sending a copy of Blooming Valley's September Perennial News!

Here are their Fall Eco-Garden Tips:

1. Spread corn gluten meal over your perennial beds to prevent spring weed seed germination. Corn gluten meal is an organic pre-emergent herbicide and a slow release nitrogen fertilizer (available at most feed mills in 50 lb. bags). Applying routinely in early fall and again in early spring can almost eliminate your annual weeds completely. The recommended rate is 20 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. It's also perfect for organic lawn care, as it eliminates dandelions, lambsquarters, crabgrass, quackgrass, purslane, and more. Do not use corn gluten where you want biennials or other plants to reseed.
2. For those of you who need to build your garden soil, this is an easy way to add organic matter with little effort. Simply top-dress your garden beds in the fall with a 1-2 inch layer of composted cow or horse manure, or your own kitchen compost. Over the winter, the

compost will work its way in without you having to turn it in, giving you beautiful soil in the spring, and giving your plants extra winter protection.

3. Create your own composted leaf mulch for next spring. Rake your leaves and shred them with a leaf shredder or with your lawn mower (the shredding is the critical part). Put them in garbage bags or in a covered pile to allow them to compost over the winter. Next spring you will have the best mulch for your perennial beds, while recycling nutrients from your own yard.