

## **Iowa County Master Gardener Association Newsletter – December 2005**

Hello and Happy Holidays!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and you're on your way to a terrific New Year! My husband was a little surprised that the gardening catalogs started coming before Christmas, but I assured him I'd wait a little before reading ALL of them. They're sitting on the coffee table waiting patiently for me...

So, did you all get gardening goodies for presents this year? I got a few things that I'm quite excited about – some new tools and a new book. Now I can't wait to get back out in the gardens to try them all out!

Happy planning!

Brenda Walter

Newsletter Editor

---

### **ICMGA Meeting minutes – November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

Report on Master Gardener garden plot at Bloomfield given by President Connie Tibbits. The group discussed planting bare root currant bushes at the garden next year. The President suggested a budget for the garden: mulch - \$150, seeds and plants - \$200, tools - \$200.

Brenda Walter will contact Fiskars regarding their Project Orange Thumb grant for tools again this year. Donations of good, used tools will be taken and new tools decided on afterward.

A children's theme for the 2006 garden was discussed. Mary Mayo will be chairman. There is the possibility of coordinating an effort with the Dodgeville Library. Denise Marino will contact SW Library Association about the 2006 library theme.

Pat Borcharding – MG Class Coordinator – explained the new MG volunteer agreement which MG's are required to sign by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Pat also passed out MG certification of new members and recertification of present members.

MG dues of \$15 are due by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

It was suggested that a work schedule for the various garden sites be put together to help members plan their MG volunteer hours. A planned work day at eh Dodgeville library will be scheduled due to revamping of plantings and removal of aggressive perennials. All MG garden information (ie. work sites, who is in charge of them, what needs to be done) can be sent to Pat Borcharding – volunteer coordinator - so she can help organize volunteers for the sites. This information will be passed on to Brenda Walter for the newsletter.

Election of officers for 2006 – President – Pat Borcharding  
Secretary – Virginia Mundt

Two volunteer MG Garden Captains for Bloomfield are needed for 2006.

Denise Marino volunteered as MG class coordinator for the new general class that starts January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Dodgeville High School.

Committee for by-law reviews – Mary Mayo, Judie Gibbon, and Brenda Walter.  
A section of the by-laws will be reviewed throughout the year to make any updates and changes as needed.

Pat Borcharding announced the 2006 meeting schedule. All meetings will be at 7 PM and tentatively held at Stonefield Apartments.

**February 22**  
**May 24**  
**August 23**  
**November 29**

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia Mundt

---

A friend of Brenda's in Ohio has some extra time on his hands as he just retired from the military this Fall and has sent me some gardening information that he thought I would find useful. He sent me two websites: <http://www.northerngardener.org/> and <http://www.northscaping.com/Tools/LandscapePlantSearch.asp> .

The Northern Gardener website only has plants listed on it for northern climates - no more finding a beautiful picture of a plant you just have to have, then finding out it only grows in zone 10! The northscaping site is from the Center for Northern Gardeners through the Minnesota State Horticultural Society.

---

December 28th, 2005

Cecil and I (Pat) wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

I am retiring from Lands' End December 31, 2005. I am looking forward to the future with great anticipation. I have many plans personally and for ICMGA, I am sure I won't be bored!

The ICMGA focus for the year is children. Vickie Stangel and Denise Marino are researching children's books for the program, we will have more information at the next meeting.

The other concern we discussed was a schedule to cover our various projects. The plan is to schedule time and date for everyone to meet at the various sites. I will schedule a weekday evening and a Saturday morning for each site. We will rotate the sites so everyone has a chance to be involved in all the sites. Along with this I will schedule 2 people each week to be responsible for the sites that are not being given TLC by the group schedule. It will be each person's responsibility to tend the site when scheduled. If you are unable to attend the site, it is necessary you trade or find someone else to tend the site. This should keep all the sites in good condition. We will have a schedule ready by the next meeting for everyone.

We will be holding the General Master Gardener course beginning January 24. If you know of anyone interested please ask them to contact me. The class will be held at the Dodgeville High School.

Sincerely,

Pat

---

I have contacted Fiskars about Project Orange Thumb and was told that the application should be online in the next few weeks. I will keep checking there for it. It is for a grant from Fiskars for tools and other supplies. If anyone would like to help with the application, please let me know.

Here is some general information about the program:

**Rules of participation**

- All information (including a photo or detailed plan) is required to process application.
- Winners must be willing to participate in publicity requests associated with the Project Orange Thumb(SM) program.
- All entries become the sole property of Fiskars Garden & Outdoor Living and will not be returned. Fiskars Garden & Outdoor Living reserves the right to publish submitted materials.
- Open to any community garden in the United States.

**Grant Criteria:**

Applicants should demonstrate the significant and continuing impact that the Project Orange ThumbSM grant will have upon the following:

- Positive effects on community gardening.
- Available continuing support/maintenance of the garden.
- Number of participants in the project.
- Willingness to participate in any adjoining publicity effort in association with the Grant.

### **30 Grants Available**

- Between \$500 and \$1,000 in Fiskars® Garden Tools (retail value)
- Fiskars® Project Orange ThumbSM T-shirts
- Between \$250 and \$500 in seed, plants, or other supplies

**Application deadline is February 18, 2005.**

Winners will be notified on or before March 4, 2005.

---

Phil and Karen Crawford sent me some pictures to brighten up the newsletter! (Sorry Virginia, I was not able to scan the pictures you gave me of Bloomfield as I don't have a scanner and the one at work is on the fritz!)

The Angel Trumpet flower is the Brugmansia Datura and Karen grew it for the second year now. The other picture is one of their woods in spring. Thanks Phil and Karen! Now we all will dream of spring tonight!







The Crawford's also sent me the name of a catalog - Garden Works - where Karen orders her gloves from. The website is: [www.garden-works.net](http://www.garden-works.net).

---