

Adams County Backyard Conservation Team
ADAMS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Backyard Conservation Conference in Corning

Gardeners and conservationists alike will be interested in the Backyard Conservation Conference coming up in Corning on Saturday, April 2. Sheila O'Riley, Coordinator of the Adams County Backyard Conservation Team, says, "We are encouraging people to improve the environment while they are improving their backyards. Together, we can make our world a better place to live – one yard at a time."

The conference will feature as keynote speaker, Jim Childs, associate editor of *Garden Gate* magazine, Des Moines. He is a native Iowan and a life-long gardener. Childs worked in retail garden centers in the Des Moines area for about 20 years and has been with *Garden Gate* magazine for 6 years. His keynote is entitled, *Trash Talk * Top Tips from Garden Gate Magazine*. Childs says, "You can turn everyday items that most folks throw away into useful garden helpers. This is more than strips of stockings for typing up plants or using old mini blinds to make labels." He will share ideas that have been sent to *Garden Gate* over the years, as well as, a few he's picked up visiting with gardeners across the U.S.

The closing keynote, *For the Love of Gardening*, will be given by Donna West, a long-time gardening enthusiast and one of the Adams County Backyard Conservation Team volunteers. West says, "Spring 2005-look out—here we gardeners come, ready or not!"

Participants in the conference will have the opportunity to attend three breakout sessions from a pool of 17 quality workshops on various gardening and conservation topics. A TV

personality will be doing two of the sessions. Michele Beschen, hostess of Fox 17's *Courage to Create* TV show on Sunday mornings, will present two sessions on *Garden Art* and one on *How to Make Stepping Stones and Other Small Concrete Objects*.

Exhibitors will be on hand and many door prizes will be awarded. Anyone who wants to set up an exhibit, please call 641-322-3116. The conference runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is in the Corning High School. The \$20 pre-registration fee (\$30 for couples) includes lunch and refreshments and is due by March 25th. A \$5 per person late fee is charged after the 25th. Walk-ins are welcome.

Brochures with a complete list of breakout sessions and registration forms are available at the Adams County Extension Service office and the Corning Natural Resources Conservation Service office, as well as, Southwestern Community College. Or contact Joan Brace at 641-322-5262 or Sheila O'Riley at 641-322-3116 for more information.

The conference is sponsored by the Adams County Backyard Conservation Team, Adams County Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa State University Extension-Adams County, and Southwestern Community College. ----

More information on breakout sessions for conference:

The variety of breakout sessions will appeal to many.

Restoring Oak Woodlands, by Sibylla Brown, Leon
Getting the Dirt on Soil, by Sindra Jensen, Cass County Backyard Conservation Team, Atlantic
Autumn in the Garden, by Addie Kinghorn, Horticultural Dept., Metro Community College, Omaha
Garden Art, by Michele Beschen, hostess of Fox 17's TV Show-*Courage to Create*
Home Flower Arrangement, by Kristine and Scott Cooper, *Wildflowers*, Corning & Villisca
Backyard Birding, by Beth Brown, Naturalist, Creston
Butterfly Gardening, by Ron Jones, State Park Ranger, Bellevue
Greenhouse Basics, by Steve Sonntag, Corning FFA Instructor
Ornamental Grasses, by Addie Kinghorn, Horticultural Dept., Metro Community College, Omaha
Stepping Stones and More, by Michelle Beschen, *Courage to Create* TV Show
Make & Take Wren Houses, by Travis Paul, Adams County Conservation Board
Water Gardening 101, by Jim Hedgecock, Comanche Acres Iris & Water Gardens, Gower, MO
What's New in Plants, by Jim Childs, associate editor, *Garden Gate* magazine
NIMBY Recycling, by Leslie Goldsmith, director, Prairie Solid Waste Agency, Creston
How to Make a Rain Barrel, by David Ferris, Lenox Municipal Utilities
Pruning Primer, by John Klein, Adams County Backyard Conservation Team volunteer, Treynor
Stick Trellises, by Dean Davis, Adams County Backyard Conservation Team volunteer, Corning