

Adams County Backyard Conservation Conference April 2, 2005

Presenters and Description of Presentations

10:15 Sessions

- 1. Restoring Oak Woodlands** by Sibylla Brown, Leon (Repeated in Session #9)
-- Many of our yards were formerly oak savanna open forest areas. Learn how your yard started and how to get back to it's best natural use.
- 2. Getting the Dirt on Soil** Sindra Jensen, Cass County Backyard Conservation Team, Atlantic
--Sindra will probe under the surface to tell the real story of your dirty little secret in the backyard. Come learn what is going on and how you can make it better.
- 3. Autumn in the Garden** by Addie Kinghorn, Hort Dept, Metro Community College, Omaha
--Addie likes color. She likes it all year. She finds autumn an easy time to keep the flowers and foliage colorful. Using selections of plants and landscaping, she extends the seasons for garden beauty.
- 4. Garden Art, Mixture of Media** by Michele Beschen, hostess of Fox 17's TV Show, *Courage to Create* (Repeated in Session #16)
--Michele will provide ideas of beautiful places that evoke emotions and reduce stress. Mixing living beauty and outdoor artwork can mutually benefit the landscape's appeal. Found objects can be unique art.
- 5. Home Flower Arrangement, Floral Secrets** by Kristine and Scott Cooper, *Wildflowers*, Corning and Villisca
--They will explain design and balance to flower arrangement using plant material most of us have in our gardens and backyards..
- 6. Backyard Birding; you'll know Wren to start** by Beth Brown, Naturalist, Osceola
--She'll start with Wrens, since the Make and Take session is Wren Houses this year. After the lesson on perfect Wrenmanship, she will cover attracting, feeding, and habitat for Iowa's most beautiful backyard songsters. Problems birds will be discussed, also.
- 7. Butterfly Gardening: Big & Small** by Ron Jones, State Park Ranger, Bellevue
--Ron organized and manages the largest butterfly garden in Iowa at Bellevue State Park. He will use slides to describe how it was done, how it has evolved, and the problems and rewards of his project. Plant selection will be discussed.

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11:10 Sessions

- 8. Greenhouse Basics** by Steve Sonntag, Corning FFA Instructor
--Join Steve in the Corning High School greenhouse to learn basic greenhouse management. Corning FFA uses the greenhouse for starting garden plants and storing interesting plant materials.
- 9. Restoring Oak Woodlands** by Sibylla Brown, Leon
(Repeat of Session #1)
- 10. Ornamental Grasses** by Addie Kinghorn, Horticulture Dept, Metro Community College, Omaha
--Some like 'em short, and some like 'em tall. Some like 'em up to the eave trough. Addie can give you the story of each one and what will really make the neighbors take notice. New varieties are listed.
- 11. Stepping Stones and More** by Michele Beschen, hostess of Fox 17's TV Show, *Courage to Create*
--Michele will give you the courage to create your own stepping stones, as well as, other small concrete objects using Styrofoam and chicken wire.
- 12. Make and Take; Wren Houses** by Travis Paul, Adams County Conservation Board, Corning (Repeated in Session #19)
--Travis will guide the "All Thumbs Carpentry Clinic" in the construction of your own Wren House to take home. All wood will be pre-cut, thanks to his staff. Your extra cost for this session is \$2, with Pheasants Forever picking up the balance of the material costs. See session #6 on Backyard Birding for the scoop on wrens.
- 13. Water Gardening 101; your perfect pond** by Jim Hedgecock, Comanche Acres Iris and Water Gardens, Gower, Missouri (Repeated in Session #20)
--The gurgle of a backyard garden pond has it all: plants, animals, water, flowers. Jim will discuss fish/plant balance and why it is important to use rocks in and around the pond.
- 14. What's New Under the Sun?** – by Jim Childs, associate editor of *Garden Gate* magazine, Des Moines
--Jim will outline new plant choices for 2005. Newer versions of some old garden favorites will be highlighted. Get *in the know* with this presentation.

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2:00 Sessions

- 15. NIMBY Recycling** by Leslie Goldsmith, director, Prairie Solid Waste Agency, Creston
--*Not In My Backyard Yard* recycling is an idea of cleaning up your (or the neighbors') yard of old junk that can be recycled. She will outline what to do with old stuff that keeps it recycled and not ditchfill or an eyesore.
- 16. Garden Art, Mixture of Media** by Michele Beschen, hostess of Fox 17's TV Show, *Courage to Create* (Repeat of Session #4)
- 17. Rain Barrels, What is simpler than that?** David Ferris, Lenox Municipal Utilities
-- Dave will demonstrate how to recycle a 30 or 50 gallon barrel by turning it into a rain barrel. Practice water conservation by collecting water for your plants from your eave spout.
- 18. Pruning Primer, When to Whack!** John Klein, Adams County Backyard Conservation Team, Treynor
--John will outline how to *reconfigure* a growing disaster of a tree. An early start to pruning avoids later problems. He will cover the timing, methods, benefits, and problems of pruning trees and shrubs.
- 19. Make and Take; Wren Houses** by Travis Paul, Adams County Conservation Board, Corning (Repeat of Session #12)
--\$2 fee to help cover cost of material.
- 20. Water Gardening 101; your perfect pond** by Jim Hedgecock, Comanche Acres Iris and Water Gardens, Gower, Missouri (Repeat of Session #13)
- 21. Stick Trellises** by Dean Davis, Adams County Backyard Conservation Team, Corning
Dean will demonstrate how to make trellises from willow and whatever sticks you have laying around. These natural looking trellises will give an uplift to your gardens.

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