

# Tree Planting Held At Fox Run Golf Course

BY BRENDA K JOHNSON  
P&D Correspondent

Thanks to the Yankton Lions Club, Fox Run golfers that slice (to the right) on the first hole will see three strategically placed trees that could come into play.

Jim Gevens, Acting Manager of Fox Run Golf Course, appreciates the beauty and shade that these trees add to the landscape. "The new trees won't slow golfers' play, but will add character to the hole."

Three 15-foot clump Riverbirch trees, donated by Yankton Lions Club were planted at the public golf course Monday.

"We donated the trees tying in Arbor Day, Lions Club International Earth Day, and the First Annual Yankton Lions Club Invitational Golf Tournament to be held at Fox Run Golf Course on June 11th," said club president Katherine French. "Proceeds from the tournament will go for Yankton High School post-secondary scholarships."

"Prizes for the tournament will include a new golf cart, a 2011 Ford Taurus, and a big money prize for holes in one," says Carl Kretsinger, Lions Club Yankton Golf Tournament Chairman and Earth Day Chairman. For tee times call Fox Run Golf Course at 605-668-5205.

"We picked clump Riverbirch because they grow fast and are a nice tree," Kretsinger says. Papery bark offers off-season interest. "I have them in my yard, and

they are beautiful."

Trees were positioned into place by Kyle Hochstein of Hartington Tree Service LLC. Hochstein is a Nebraska licensed tree arborist for his family business.

"It's better for the roots to plant ball and burlap clump Riverbirch in spring than fall," Hochstein says.

"We measured the depth of the root ball and dug the hole a third larger. (With the tree in place) we threw loosened soil back into the hole and tamped it down. Mulch around the tree reduces weed growth and holds moisture. Water on a weekly basis as needed the first season."

Public tree donation is one way Yankton Lions Club serves the community. "We sponsor a law enforcement dance," French says, to donate to the Women's / Children's Center, child protection teams, Contact Center, Homeless Shelter, and D.A.R.E. program. Lions Club funded four children for the Sack Pack Program, and collect used cell phones for the Women's / Children's Center. We've had projects for Make a Difference Day."

"Lions Club members put up flags for businesses ten times a year for holidays and events. Proceeds from this go for hearing aids and eye glasses for children and adults in need in the community."

"We'll have a membership enrollment desk when you play the golf tournament on June 11th. We welcome new members," Kretsinger says.



BRENDA K. JOHNSON  
Carl Kretsinger and Katherine French stand with one of the clump Riverbirch the Yankton Lions Club donated to the public golf course.

# On Gardening: Scarlet Milkweed A Champion For Butterflies

BY NORMAN WINTER  
McClatchy Newspapers (©2011 MCT)

If you've thought about gardening for butterflies, then make this the year you include the scarlet milkweed in your flower border. It is a virtual butterfly factory. This tropical is related to your native milkweeds but will literally bloom from spring through frost, making it a super buy for your gardening dollar.



While TV commercials sell a butterfly in a box, you and your whole family will experience the whole life cycle of the butterfly with a patch of these flowers. The landscape itself will also become a blaze of fiery orange and red.

The scarlet milkweed known botanically as *Asclepias curassavica* will reach 24 to 36 inches in height and spread to 24 inches.

Grow it in full sun with fertile well drained soil and you will find it to be virtually maintenance free. In zone 8 and higher you will normally find it to be perennial. In colder areas you will find it easy to capture seeds to start your own transplants.

Once you have yours planted then the fun begins. You'll first find them simply irresistible to Monarch and the equally flamboyant Queen butterflies. They will arrive to feast on the nectar rich flowers.

Unknown to you unless you are searching, eggs will be laid and will soon hatch into caterpillars that are as exotic as the butterflies. The caterpillars will

soon begin munching with a voracious appetite. I have had mine stripped to the point of almost looking like a pencil cactus. This fierce eating lasts for around two weeks.

You might think this stripping of the foliage would prove to be the demise of the plant, but in no time you will have more leaves and flowers. The caterpillars will seem to disappear. They will actually attach themselves head downward and shed their skin. Now it is time to go on the hunt for what is known as a chrysalis.

Chrysalis is another name for pupa. You will find these hanging almost unnoticed on the underside of leaf, or a branch. We even find them hanging from the wire of a nearby fence. The chrysalis looks green but in reality is clear and colors become apparent as the Monarch get

closer to emergence.

This is the kind of fun that the kids or grandkids will enjoy and the experience will make lasting memories. It will also be a valuable lesson in both gardening and conservation.

This livelihood to butterflies like the Monarch and Queen would make this plant a winner in anyone's book, but believe it or not it is also a delicacy loved by hummingbirds. You'll find them gracefully hovering from above and taking in the rich nectar provided by the blossoms.

In the landscape you might want to combine with



blue flowers for a complementary color scheme. Here at the National Butterfly Center we use blue mist flowers that are native. You might want to try ageratums or blue salvias to add some real sizzle to your planting. There are also some great choices in buddleia butterfly bush to use as companions.

Planting season is moving across the country. Try

the scarlet milkweed for an experience the whole family will treasure.

Norman Winter is executive director of The National Butterfly Center in Mission, Texas, and author of "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Contact him at: winter@naba.org

# A Patio Makeover Can Be A One-Weekend Wonder

BY STACY DOWNS  
McClatchy Newspapers (©2011 MCT)

We've got the cure for winter's lingering wrath: a weekend porch makeover.

Landscape architect Joann Schwarberg of Mission Hills, Kan., leads us through a weekend action plan for transforming our dead-leaf-riddled outdoor spaces into true retreats — including a celebratory drink at the finish line. She recently tackled her neighbors' porch and patio so the couple will be all set to be hosts for a coming class reunion.

"Like many of our homes, these areas needed to be ready for adult entertaining and relaxing," Schwarberg says. "They needed cleaning from the crud of winter. Furniture had to be upgraded, pots needed to be bigger and color needed to be added through cushions and plants."

### THE TIMELINE

Friday after work: Make a plan

Determine the scope of the project. The good thing about a weekend makeover is that the change can be as simple as positioning furniture and redistributing accessories. Truly updating the space can cost a little more, says interior designer Stephen Saint-Onge in his book "No Place Like Home" (Wiley; \$20). "This is something you could do alone, as a fun family project or with a group of friends," Saint-Onge writes. "Instead of a book club, how about forming a makeover club?"

Take digital photos. Landscape architect Joann Schwarberg documents projects by taking photographs from different angles. The "before" photos help pinpoint problems. For example, even though her neighbors' covered

porch is attached to the house, it seemed a little removed.

"One way to give it more of a cocooning feeling is to use simple outdoor drapery panels," Schwarberg says. "Fabric envelops the space, makes it more welcoming."

Make a list of tasks and supplies. Schwarberg creates spreadsheets of tasks to be performed. She includes the fun: new pillows and plants. And the mundane, including cleanup.

### EARLY SATURDAY: CLEAN LIKE MAD

Empty pots and clear out furnishings. "They need to be out of the way so you can clean the area and visualize something new," Schwarberg says.

Christine Stephan, who assists Schwarberg, hoses off the rings of dirt outside of pots and washes the interiors with water and a drop of disinfectant. "You don't want this year's plants catching last year's diseases," Stephan says.

Spruce up. Prune nearby trees and shrubs. Clear the gutters. Add mulch to existing nearby landscaping. Power wash or hose down the area of the house getting the makeover, including the walls and pavement. If necessary, apply touch-up paint on the house. Make sure all the lighting works.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON: SHOP AROUND

Assess your furniture. "If the old stuff has to make it another year or two but looks pretty run down, consider painting it with one of the special spray paints made for metal or plastic furniture," Schwarberg says. "This will shine it up and maybe add a new fun color. Remember to clean it thoroughly first, or the paint will flake and chip."



Another option if you have a patio set worth keeping — or if you find a great set at a flea market or estate sale — is to take it to an auto body paint shop and ask them to give it a new life, she said.

Consider new cushions and pillows. For cushions, Schwarberg advocates a solid neutral color.

"That neutral could be a blue, lime green or whatever," she says. "You want the cushions to be fine

for any type of party, whether it's a luau or fiesta. So the (accent) pillows can be the fun patterns, but you don't want to get sick of the cushions."

Or perhaps all that's needed is a new umbrella.

Buy pots, plants and rugs. You might already have an outdoor-grade rug in your house that you can use on the patio.

### SUNDAY AFTER BREAKFAST: RACE TO THE END

Plant pots. Schwarberg's system: Place about an inch or two of gravel in the bottom of large pot. Smooth it out so a plastic liner sits level on top of it. Make sure pot and liner have holes in the bottom to drain the soil of excess moisture. Insert the plastic liner pot (about an inch smaller than the ceramic or clay pot) and layer the inside with an inch of gravel, filter cloth, or organic potting soil and your main plant, tree or shrub; add annuals and herbs around edges. Use Styrofoam packing peanuts to fill in the gap between pot and liner — this prevents shrinking and swelling of soil that cracks pots. Add a finish-

ing touch of sheet moss at the top to retain moisture.

Arrange furniture. Schwarberg likes to place club chairs on a diagonal to create outdoor conversation areas. If you also have lounge chairs, set them in the lawn facing the patio, she says. "This gives an additional view of the yard and extends your entertaining space beyond the paving."

Place the pillows and pots. At her neighbors' house, Schwarberg added a pedestal with a potted bear's claw fern in one of the corners, which softens the severe squared angles of the brick porch.

Eat, drink and have fun. Sit back, relax and toast your hard work. Your weekend makeover will pay off all season.

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