

## HOMEGARDEN

## Annual Garden Tour Offers Peek Into Great Yards

BY LINDA WUEBEN

"It's all about the garden and not about the lawn," said Dr. Denny Weiss as he summed up the gardening projects on the property he and his wife Jan nurture year after year. The couple was one of the featured gardens in the third annual Master Gardener Garden Tour in the Yankton area.

East of Yankton, out in the countryside north of Lewis & Clark Lake, the couple has developed a small acreage in the "land of the electric fence." They were definitely one of the youngest gardening duos among the six spectacular gardens showcased last weekend, but there was a reason they were included.

When the Weisses moved from Iowa nine years ago, they brought Jan's garden specimens in a livestock trailer and the back ends of two pickups. Her favorite flowers and perennials were reminders of family and friends which couldn't be left behind.

Today all the special cuttings and bulbs are surrounded by an electric fence sparking juice every night, all year round — a practice used quite often in the rural area to keep the deer out of the tender plants.

"The first year the deer just ravaged our garden," said Jan Weiss. "But I just couldn't let my husband put up that ugly electric fence."

They compromised. For a couple of years, a fence was strung with clear fishing line but the wildlife soon figured out it wouldn't cause them much harm so now an electric fence is strung around the house yard, flowerbeds and vegetable garden.

A large flowerbed behind the house where Weiss spends much of her time includes her favorite perennial, baptistas, and is guarded with a welding creation of horses. The special gift was collaboration from a son and son-in-law and is a focal point in her landscaping.

"Every day when I leave the house starting in early spring until fall, I see a different bloom or a different color," Weiss said. "It makes my day. It makes it all worthwhile."

This comes from the muscle man in the gardening process who identifies the flowering display as that red one or this white one.

Just up the hill the touring nature lovers stopped at Rick and Jean Koupal. This energetic couple carved seven acres out of the wooded hills north of the lake and made it a peaceful retreat.

Horseshoe Hollow was born in 1992 and all that remains of the



PHOTOS: LINDA WUEBEN

Here are a few of the sights offered at the Yankton area's third annual Master Gardener Garden Tour.

old farmyard is a 100-year-old horse barn which the couple converted to a shop and work area for Rick next to the vegetable garden. It also has rooms filled with memorabilia of past days. The vegetable garden takes up the space where the horse corral was and where hogs once roamed, the gardening duo fashioned a "Memory Lane."

With flowering beds scattered among relics of the past and old tin signs of forgotten seed corn and feed stores hanging on the outside of the old hog barn, the walk through the pen becomes more pleasant than when filled with hogs. Several sitting areas have been created to stop and take a rest from the hard work of keeping the grounds spotless, and Koupal says those resting spots are used more frequently all the time.

Jean Koupal has a vibrant green thumb and a sense of humor, as she points out the brilliant blue glass ball atop an old sewer pipe. She is the weeder and her husband is the lifter and even a couple new neighbor girls stop in to feel the dirt in their hands and learn a bit of gardening.

"Several of my potted plants come in door over the winter months into Rick's office," she said. "Their beauty lasts year round and keep Rick fresh, too."

The couple even moves several potted plants up on to the deck behind the house when severe weather threatens. The pleasing backyard view takes a lot of work.

With copper-colored nameplates, Rich and Lynette Hinckley helped the visiting gar-

den-lovers identify the lovely specimens in their backyard flower beds. While Hinckley compared gardening philosophies, his wife pointed out the finer points of the curved beds. He is not sure why his hydrangea has pink and blue blooms on the same plant but enjoys the beauty every day.

"It's Rich's therapy when he gets home from work," Lynette said.

Rich Hinckley admits his wife is his idea person, or maybe supervisor. It's a fine line but the couple work well together. They like to try new flowering attractions every year and a recent addition is a Candy Corn Vine he found in a nursery in Minneapolis.

A stone figure resembling a man in Hinckley's flower bed built of flat stones called an Inushuk is based on Alaskan folklore.

"I read about how the stone marker was erected in a place where Eskimos either found food or had good hunting," Hinckley said.

He was fascinated with the idea. It was also said to be used as a point of reference for those navigating the vast tundra.

It is just another unique touch the couple has added to the bed running along their back fence. A fat-wheel bike with a flowering basket and wheelbarrow relic also filled with blooms now in summer are other decorative touches which make the view from the patio windows in December a little easier to take.

"Seeing things grow just makes you feel good," said Jim

Nyberg, owner of another gardening display. "They feed your soul."

Along with wife Marilyn, he has built a lawn and garden area by expanding their property when an older house next door came up for sale and they purchased it. The house was torn down and since 1966 and the landscaping has been a work-in-progress.

The couple built a conservatory 12 years ago from which they keep an eye on their garden year-round. A silent, soft winter snowfall is very enjoyable and a favorite potted fig tree spends the majority of the year inside, or the Nybergs would have to compete with the neighborhood raccoons for the tasty fruit.

The old Gurney's Nursery designed their first hexagon flower bed but Marilyn Nyberg has moved far beyond those early days. She lovingly points out a Japanese Lilac tree, maple and ash trees as the visitors stroll along brick paths across the Auld-Brook Trail which also follows a city easement across the Nyberg property.

Frequent runners enjoy the meticulous lawn and garden all summer long. Even when the couple is gone on vacation, one of Marilyn's piano students keeps the area watered and vibrant.

Way out on 435th Avenue, Lloyd and Julie Brunick have tamed only a small portion of their 30 acres of wooded hills north of the Lake. And they, too, have resorted to an electric fence.



The couple loves tea roses and a large bed of the flowering roses is surrounded with landscaping rock and electric fence.

"It's the only way to enjoy our plants otherwise the wildlife including deer and wild turkey destroy all our hard work," Julie Brunick said.

One flower bed near the house is even covered with a wire lid at night along with the electric fence to keep unwanted visitors out.

"Lloyd does most of the hard work but I am always ready and willing to give advice," Brunick said with a laugh.

She points out a Hen and Chick plant which has grown to almost three feet across after being planted in the same spot for 15 years. A rock bed along the front and back of the house holds a nice surprise of flowering violas which spread among the rocks and grew from a gift plant she received. It's just one of the little extras which garden lovers enjoy.

The couple travels with friends every spring on an overnight nursery trip into Iowa, South Dakota and Minnesota, looking for the ever elusive unique plant which will fit just

right in their landscaping scheme. A King Tut plant in a large planter on the patio next to the hot tub was one of those interesting finds and spends its winter inside the couple's home.

The last gardening display was at the Doug and Linda Larson's garden in Larson's Landing on Lewis & Clark Lake. A huge pond with a few Koi fish competes with the natural beauty of the Lake and even though the couple has had lots of damage from recent severe weather situations, they were ready to welcome the garden tourists for a light luncheon.

A familiar 28-foot lighthouse which decorated the point of the Landing was destroyed by high winds and a 60-foot cottonwood tree toppled in the RV park but the garden tour's last stop was also a gathering point for the day's visitors around picnic tables exchanging favorite flowering sites and tips.

"How can you wake up crabby when this is what you see every day?" Linda Larson asked. "It's a piece of paradise."

## Discards Can Become Mummys Marigolds Thrill With Unique Look Garden Delights

BY KATHY VAN MULLEKOM

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Green in your garden is about more than flowers, fruits and foliage. It's also about eco-friendly gardening, which includes recycling whenever and whatever you can.

There are simple, everyday ways to recycle in your yard. For instance, your daily newspaper makes an excellent weed-detering material in beds. Most publishers use organic pigments that are safe and decompose. Place six to eight layers of newspaper over bare soil that you first weeded. Wet the newspaper with a hose, and then top dress with attractive wood mulch. Use cardboard from leftover boxes for stubborn spots.

On a grander scale, items like rusted-out wagons, empty barrels, abandoned tubs and sinks, cracked jugs, old bikes, worn-out shoes and even damaged crab pots can be recycled into flower containers or garden art.

To jump start your imagination, here's an idea for using an old watering can, ice bucket and frog — items you can easily find at a yard sale or thrift shop. The idea comes from Ken Matthews Garden Center in Yorktown, Va. — www.kenmatthews-

gardencenter.com.

Watering Can Garden  
1 old aluminum ice bucket, at least 16 inches in diameter  
1 old watering can  
2 ceramic frogs  
1 four-inch Graceful Cattail  
1 water hyacinth  
1 variegated water clover  
1 statuary and fountain pump, rated 75 gallons per hour

1/2-inch pond tubing cut to fit  
4-7 river rocks or other interesting rocks  
water and electrical outlet  
Drill hole in bottom of watering can big enough for tubing to easily fit through.

Run tubing through bottom of watering can, into spout and to the end of spout.

Position rock on one side of old ice bucket container.  
Position pump beside rock — the cord will have to hang over the side of the container.

Rest watering can on rock at an angle (you may need to make an indentation in the bottom of the watering can to get it where you want it).  
Hook tubing to the pump.

Add pond plants and frogs.  
Add water to just below the top of container.  
Plug in pump and enjoy!

BY NORMAN WINTER

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Mummys marigold may just be the perfect mari-mum. If you are not familiar with the term mari-mum it came about as a result of research at Texas A&M University in the early 90's. They proved that the large African marigolds when planted in late summer gave a look similar to fall mums, except larger and bloomed longer, right up until frost.

Mummys is a new series of marigold that comes in orange, yellow and gold and looks more like a mum than any marigold in the market place. These are large 4 inch wide flowers with curly frilly outer petals that make you envision mums.

Traditionally, marigolds are grown in the spring and summer, but thanks in part to the A&M research many gardeners plant them for fall. This time of the year in warmer parts of the country marigolds have a propensity to get spider mites. This causes many gardeners to get fed up and vow to never plant them again. The A&M research showed that late August planted marigolds did not develop this problem as the plants grew and headed toward cooler temperatures of fall.

Progressive garden centers often bring in a fresh crop of transplants in August and September. If yours doesn't, you can rest easy knowing that in the



COURTESY NORMAN WINTER/MCT

Mummys is a new series of marigold that comes in orange, yellow and gold and looks more like a mum than any marigold in the market place.

gardening world, marigolds are among the easiest annuals to grow from seed. So place your order for seeds now and you'll be in prime shape for fall planting.

When planting Mummys marigolds select a sunny well-drained location. Prepare the soil by tilling in a 2 or 3-inch layer of compost if needed. Compost is especially helpful on

soils that have high sand or clay content. To feed your plants, consider adding a controlled release fertilizer according to the product label. I like to use about 2 pounds per 100 square feet of planting area.

The next thing to remember when planting Mummys marigolds is the color blue or violet. These are the best complementary col-

ors. If you are growing the oranges or gold ones, then blue is the best choice as a companion plant. If you are growing the yellow then violet-to-purple colors may be the best.

They will reach about 14 inches tall and are the perfect choice for planting in front of tall fall blooming salvias like the Mexican bush sage, the Mystic Spire Blue or Victoria Blue. Use them in also in combination with ornamental grasses many of which reach their peak in autumn. Don't forget that the oranges and yellows also work well together. This is called an analogous color scheme.

The next critical thing is to plant enough to make a show. One jumbo six pack will simply not do the plant justice. They perform extraordinarily well in mixed containers so you have permission to use a smaller quantity in this circumstance.

To keep that flower production at full speed, feed with light applications of a 12-6-6 or balanced fertilizer about every six weeks. Deadheading the old flowers will keep them looking tidy and the flower production higher.

Mummys marigolds promise to thrill you. They will be blooming before your mums start in the fall and will still be showing out when your mums are through. You can't beat that value for this workhorse of a plant.

## Canning Class July 22

PARKER — Lavonne Meyer, Turner County Extension educator, will be hosting a canning class on Thursday, July 22, in the community room of the Turner County Courthouse, Parker. The workshop begins at 7 p.m.

The class will focus on the hot water bath canning method. Items to be covered include: proper equipment, USDA recommendations, and step-by-step instructions with the hot water

bath canner. If you plan to can fruits, pickles, or tomatoes, this would be an important class for you to take.

Call the Turner County Extension Office at 297-3112 to pre-register before July 21. There is no cost to the class, but pre-registration will insure there are adequate hand-outs for everyone. This class is open to anyone that is interested in safe food-preservation.

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## STIP Public Meetings

S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2011-2015 Five-Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Tentative STIP includes all the state sponsored transportation projects for this time period.

Prior to final approval of the STIP by the Transportation Commission, public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations to receive public comment on the tentative program.

July 15, 2010	Ramkota Hotel	Rapid City	7:00 PM
July 20, 2010	Ramada Inn	Aberdeen	7:00 PM
July 21, 2010	Ramkota Hotel	Sioux Falls	7:00 PM
July 22, 2010	MTI Technology Center (1800 E. Spruce)	Mitchell	7:00 PM
July 27, 2010	Ramkota Hotel	Pierre	7:00 PM

Individuals with disabilities or special needs call 605-773-3340 or 1-800-877-1113 (TDD).  
For more information please go to www.SDDOT.com