

SDSU Extension Master Gardeners Exploring An Online Teaching Platform

BROOKINGS — A few years ago, Mary Roduner sat across from a young couple who had both just lost their jobs. They were looking for ways to cut expenses and still provide healthy meals for their three young children. They came to her to learn how to garden.

“Nationwide, because of the economy, many people look to gardening as an economical way to feed their family, but many of have not gardened before,” said Roduner, SDSU Extension Master Gardener Coordinator.

That’s where SDSU Extension’s Master Gardener program can help. Master Gardener volunteers across South Dakota help train both young people and adults in techniques for growing vegetables in the South Dakota climate and soils.

In her new role as the statewide Master Gardener Coordinator, Roduner will provide guidance and help develop training materials for the program which trains about 100 South Dakotans each year, in classes offered at locations throughout the state.

About 1,400 South Dakotans have taken the intensive training course since the program began in 1985, said Rhoda Burrows, SDSU Extension Horticulture Specialist and the Master Gardener Program Coordinator for the last 10 years.

Volunteers receive more than 60 hours of classroom and hands-on training over a nine-week period. SDSU Extension staff provides the training for a nominal fee, asking

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MARY RODUNER

that in return, participants volunteer 50 hours over the following two years in their communities sharing their knowledge. Once the hours of service are complete, trainees then receive the status of Master Gardener.

“The Master Gardener program is a perfect fit with the mission of SDSU Extension. It educates the public and encourages participants to share the knowledge they gain from the program with their community,” Burrows said.

The result is more than 7,200 volunteer hours shared with South Dakota communities each year. Master Gardeners do everything from leading workshops and training seminars on gardening and answering gardening questions at local farmers’ markets or being available for call-in questions at county and regional Extension centers; to working with local food banks and nonprofits to facilitate community and school gardens.

“Master Gardeners are actively involved in the groundswell movement to produce food locally and increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables,” Burrows said. “It’s especially exciting to see the work they are doing in school gardens to train the next

generation of gardeners.”

Traditionally, all Master Gardener courses were taught in a classroom setting. For some participants, this meant driving many miles to the nearest training location and made it prohibitive for others to participate.

Burrows and Roduner are currently working to pilot a new training method for Master Gardeners. According to Burrows, the goal is to make much of the course training available online, with a smaller portion of the class in-person for subjects best learned with hands-on experience. This would minimize travel to a classroom, as well as making the Master Gardener program more accessible to a wider range of South Dakotans.

“SDSU Extension is committed to this program and wants to make it work for everyone,” Roduner said. “We live in a state where many live miles from the nearest training center. One participant told me that she had to wait to take the course until she retired because she worked full-time and could not take nine days off for the training. Once the course is converted to an online platform, then no matter where you live in South Dakota, you can participate.”

Roduner and Burrows are currently working with other SDSU Extension staff and SDSU Horticulture faculty to develop the online courses. Anyone interested in participating in Master Gardener training in 2013 should contact Roduner at mary.roduner@sdstate.edu or 605-394-1722.

Weed Patch

Effects From Drought Continue To Linger

BY LINDA WUEBBEN
P&D Correspondent

The last few days of October are lingering between some warmer, pleasant days and then fits of cooler weather hinting at the winter months to come.

So I found myself in my garden today. We hung on to our tomato plants as long as we could because I didn’t get as many quarts of juice and sauce canned as I wanted. I knew when I made the decision to replant my tomatoes in June, the harvest would be very late in the summer. I had to take the chance.

We left so many green tomatoes on the vines, I wanted to cry. But Bob picked two crates of green tomatoes and they are slowly turning red in our basement so I can make a few more jars of juice.

A gardening friend told me last week he had canned several quarts of pickled small whole green tomatoes because he had so many left on the vine. If only I had known a week earlier, I would have given it a try. The idea sounds delicious just thinking about it. I now have a project for my gardening harvest in 2013.

But today in my garden, I was pulling the cages off my supposedly dead tomatoes. I felt like I was chewing them off the wires. I finally went into the house and got my kitchen shears and starting cutting the limbs off. No dumb bunny here! The other bonus was under all of the huge brown tomato vines and dead leaves hung several unfrozen tomatoes. So here I am picking tomatoes, some ripening and others still green. I gathered another crate. Maybe I will still have some home-grown tomatoes for our Thanksgiving table.

My harvest corn went the same way the field corn bounty did — not much. A few of the stalks caught some of the watering Bob did across the garden but it didn’t make much difference. Most of them only had a row or two of kernels on one side of the ears.

I have an awesome carrot crop

and my daughter brags about her ‘little’ beet crop — some five inches across. I have heard many gardeners dug great potato crops and I won’t get out of planting sweet potato vines ever again because the plants harvested so many of the sweet taters. I’m surprised the root crops were so successful because the ground temperature was so hot for so long from the long heat spells. There must have been something about the drought those vegetables like.

The other canning project I have in mind for next summer is to try a recipe from a friend’s daughter-in-law. My pickle crop was a great bumper crop and I talked about making sweet refrigerator pickles a gallon at a time. Bob ate them as quickly as I canned them. She shared her daughter-in-law made a recipe for refrigerator dill pickles. I

had to have that recipe and already have it setting inside the front cover of my binder containing all of my favorite recipes just waiting for next year’s cucumber crop to try it out on.

But the continued drought is very worrisome to me as a farm wife and gardener. It really sounds like the drought will hang with us for several months to come. Planning for next year’s corn, bean or hay crop will be very challenging for not only traditional farmers and gardeners but also for those farmers who have moved to irrigating.

At what point in time will the drought and lack of water affect not only the growth of a year’s worth of crops but also decrease the amount of water available for human and livestock consumption? Some very hard decisions may need to be made in the upcoming months. I pray our leaders have guidance in handling the situation with wisdom and compassion.

And, I pray for rain, sufficient for all our needs, for water humans can drink and use for cooking, for growing our crops, watering our livestock and keeping every living thing alive and healthy.



Linda WUEBBEN

Extension Seeks Seed Donations For Educational Gardens

BROOKINGS — Educational gardens are popping up across the state. To assist with these educational gardening efforts, SDSU Extension is seeking seed donations to help with these projects. This past growing season, 30 garden programs across the state received 20 seed packets from this effort.

The donated seeds are intended only for newly starting and established educational gardens.

Eligible projects include gardens for schools, learning centers, day cares, 4-H clubs or

other nonprofit groups in South Dakota, where the produce will be used as part of the program or freely shared with those of need. Qualified projects must include an educational component.

Unopened seed packets with varieties that are appropriate to South Dakota are requested. Vegetable seeds are highest priority, but flower seeds will also be accepted. Certified seed potatoes and onion sets or transplants would also be welcomed in the spring.

Ideally, seeds would have

been stored in cool, dark conditions where they were not exposed to moisture or temperature extremes or are purchased new for the 2013 growing season. Consider the age of the seeds when donating. Older seeds have reduced germination rates so you are asked to donate only seeds packaged for 2012 or 2013.

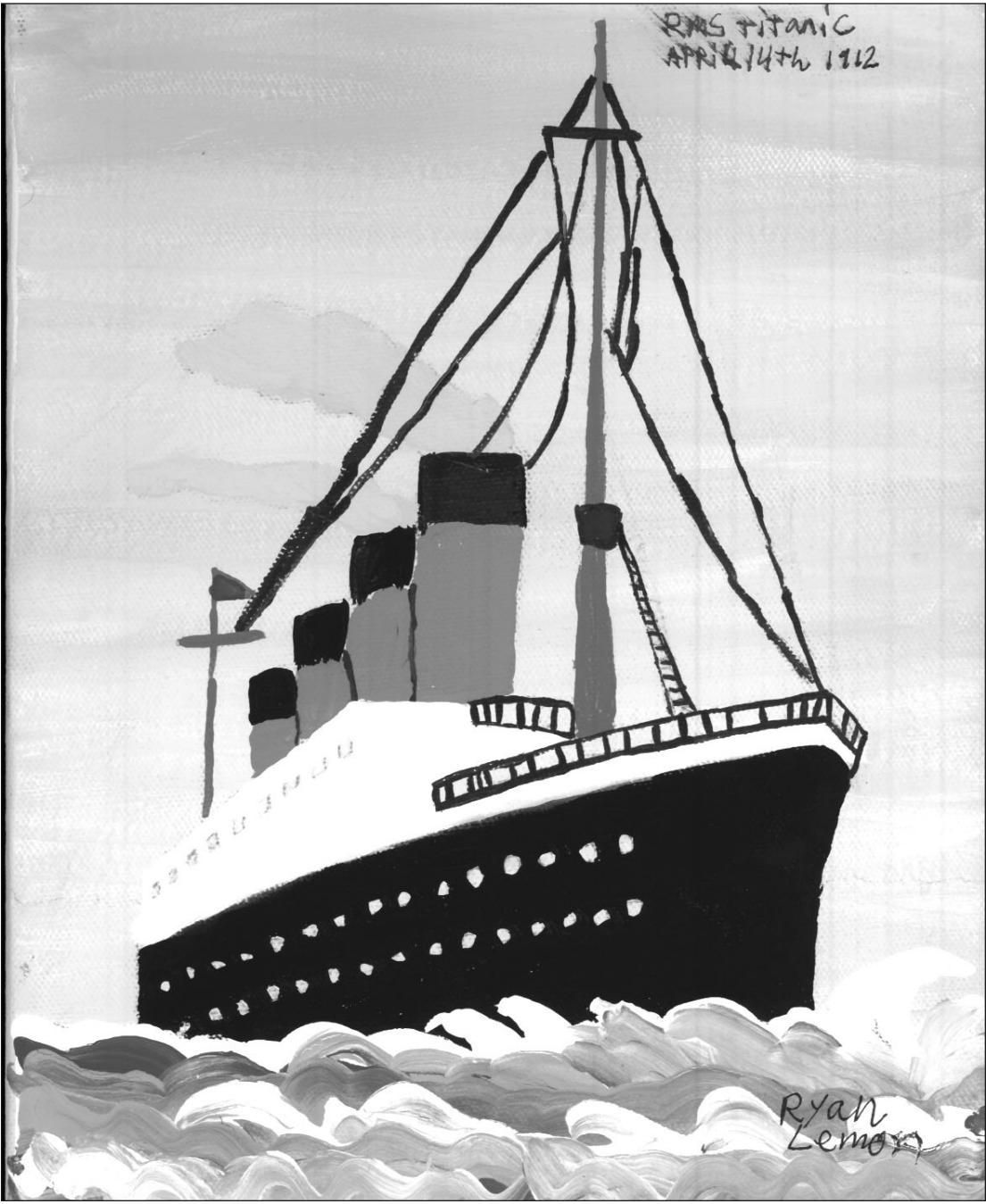
Consider donating to educational garden programs across the state. Deliver or mail seed donations to the SDSU Extension Regional Center, 2001 E. Eighth St., Sioux Falls, SD 57103. Attn:

Chris Zdorovtsov.

If you are interested in receiving donated seeds, please call the SDSU Extension Sioux Falls Regional Center in January for an application. An application notice will also be sent on the Youth Gardening Listserv in January.

To join the Listserv or for additional information on this project, contact Chris Zdorovtsov, Community Development Field Specialist, at 782-3290 or at Christina.Zdorovtsov@sdstate.edu.

A TRULY TITANIC PAINTING



Ryan Lemon of Yankton recently did this painting of the RMS Titanic. It took her three weeks to do the work. She did it at Yankton’s Studio Art Center with Lita Stucky.

Live United Week A Success

LIVE UNITED WEEK was a unique experience for United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton. This was the first year that the annual campaign kick-off expanded beyond appearing on the football field during half-time of the Yankton Bucks’ first home game. How were the activities accomplished? By the generosity of community volunteers and businesses!

Members of the Boys & Girls Club enthusiastically cleaned cars, businesses displayed LIVE UNITED on their marquees, volunteers served coffee while KYNT’s Scott Kooistra interviewed United Way board members and agency directors, restaurants participated in DINE UNITED and volunteers from the partner agencies filled the football field with their posters and colorful streamers.

Thank you to the Boys & Girls Club for furnishing the labor force for the car wash on Monday. To

the people that gave generous tips for their clean cars, the workers were treated to a pizza party as well as remaining funds benefiting the Club. Thank you to the marquee businesses that promoted LIVE UNITED: Ace Hardware, Broadway Inn, Boys & Girls Club, Clark’s Rental, CorTrust Bank, Days Inn, El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant, First Dakota National Bank, First National Bank SD, Hy-Vee, Leisure World, Minervas, Morgan Square, Pied Piper, Slumberland, Super Suds, and Yankton Computer & Network Services.

Thank you, First National Bank SD and Pied Piper for hosting the sites for serving coffee on Wednesday morning. Thank you United Way board members and Heart Club Committee Member, Beth Pietila who waved and enticed rush traffic motorists in for a quick coffee hand-off. Thank you also goes to the participating

DINE UNITED restaurants: Charlie’s Pizza, Cottonwood Corral, Dairy Queen, El Tapatio, Hy-Vee, Mexican Restaurant, Murdos, Rock House, and Sunrise Coffee and all the people that dined out that day.

AND, last but not least, thank you to the Yankton High School Principal, Wayne Kindle, and Activities Director, Ryan Mors, for once again welcoming a field full of volunteers raising awareness for their organizations and kicking off the United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton 2013 Campaign. This annual event will provide critical services encompassing citizens of all ages and greatly lightens the fundraising time and efforts of the 22 agencies. By working and networking together, everybody’s quality of life improves. Thank you for making a difference! GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED.

VFW & Ladies Auxiliary Essay Contest Begins

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) announced the kick-off of this year’s VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary “Patriot’s Pen Essay Competition.” Middle school students in grades 6-8 in this area have the opportunity to compete in the VFW’s annual essay competition and win thousands of dollars.

Students begin by competing at the local Post level. Post winners advance to District. District winners compete in the state competition. The state winners compete for \$46,000 in awards, and the first place winner wins \$2,500. Each year, around 126,000 students participate nationwide. Students are invited to write a 300-400-word

essay on a patriotic theme. The theme for 2012-2013 (which is the 18th year of the contest) is: “What I Would Tell America’s Founding Fathers.”

Deadline for student entries is Nov. 1 and interested students and teachers should contact their local VFW Post or South Dakota State VFW Chairman Linda Fox (605) 665-8026 (H) or (605) 660-3527 (C) or South Dakota State Chairman for the Ladies Auxiliary Vickie Rosse, (H) 605-697-6317, (C) 690-0283.

For details and an application form, visit <http://www.vfw.org/Community/Patriot-s-Pen/>

SCHOLASTICS

ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL
Crofton, Neb.
FIRST QUARTER
7TH GRADE
ROLL OF EXCELLENCE: Haley Arens, Mackenzie Foxhoven
HONOR ROLL: Lauren Arens
MERIT ROLL: Max Becker, Hannah Steffen, Ethan Poppe
8TH GRADE
ROLL OF EXCELLENCE: Josh Allen, Monica Arens, Mariah Dendinger, Kelsey Sanger
MERIT ROLL: Krista Zavadir

Flooded Farm Land Applications Due Nov. 1

Landowners who qualify for a reduction in assessed value on their flooded crop land must turn the needed paperwork in to their local assessor’s office (Director of Equalization) by Nov. 1, 2012.

Land that can’t be planted because it is flooded may be eligible for a reduction in assessed value. Applications must be submitted each year accompanied by current Farm Service Agency maps with flooded acres clearly marked. The paperwork must be dropped off at the Director of Equalization Office or postmarked by Nov. 1, 2012.

Lakes, dugouts and land in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are not eligible.

Flooded farm land applications are available at the Director of Equalization Office. In Yankton County, that office is in the County Government Center, 121 West Third Street Suite 203, Yankton.

For more information, call (605)260-4400 opt. 3.

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Flooded Basement...
Wet Walls ...

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Specialized Equipment
& Training to make sure
the job gets done right.

Certified
Technicians

24hr.
Emergency
Response
TEAM!

RED RIBBON WEEK

October 23-31, 2012

Red Ribbon Week was started in 1988 by President Reagan to raise awareness for the need for alcohol, tobacco, drug and violence prevention, early intervention and treatment services. Let's honor this week in Yankton by hosting alcohol-free Halloween parties with plenty of fun activities to show our youth that we care about their future.

CHOOSE TO BE DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE

Coalition for a Drug-Free Yankton

DEFAA
Drug Free Action Alliance

PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOSI

Don't be a party to teenage drinking. It's against the law.

For more information call 605-665-4606
or find us on Facebook at The Coalition For a Drug Free Yankton