
Green Thumb

The Newsletter for the Polk County Master Gardeners

July 2011

ISU Polk County Extension, 1625 Adventureland Drive, Altoona
Phone 515-957-5760

[Visit the website](#)

Dean's Doodles

Here it is July and seemingly the monsoon season is upon us, although as I'm writing this the forecast is for a few days of sun with no rain or at least a low percentage chance of showers.

Lots of successful activities took place this month, the coleus sale, garden tour, education classes and some work in our gardens in between the rain, great job by everyone who was part of any of those projects. We have lots of activities going on this month at all of the gardens with classes, work nights, fair preparation, etc so there is lots to do and opportunities for volunteer hours.

Speaking of hours please get your hours reported and attempt to keep them up to date. At steering committee last night Mary mentioned that you can see the top 10 total hours and hours per volunteer by county as you log into record hours. Today, Polk county is #1 in total hours. In the hours per volunteer category we are #8. The county leading has 49 hrs per volunteer. All of you do a great job at the projects you work on and I know that those who are in charge of the projects appreciate everyone of your hours, just make sure to give yourself (and "us") credit for them by getting them recorded.

Nothing new to report on the greenhouse, although Dupont/Pioneer has pledged money this past week, which was in the news. If any of you are interested in serving on a committee to continue to explore greenhouse options or alternatives (if in the end we can't stay at the Botanical Center) please let Mary Farlow or myself know. We talked about this at steering committee and would like to have some alternatives in hand before we know what the final outcome with the Botanical Center is.

Finally have a wonderful 4th of July weekend, don't drink and drive or boat, be careful with your fireworks if you have any and enjoy the weekend. On a personal note because of what I do, there are going to be a large number of welcome home ceremonies all around the state starting not too long after the 4th for the deployed soldiers from the Iowa Guard and the great job they did this past year in Afghanistan. Try to take a little time to go to one of them, you don't need to know anyone, just be there to welcome them home and support them and their families. These are always well publicized in the media as to locations and times. The guidelines for years have been that the ceremony lasts no more than 20 minutes, so the soldiers can be reunited with their families. I imagine that there are probably none of us that don't know someone personally or know someone who has a loved one in this group and, regardless of our feelings about the war, all of these soldiers volunteered to be in the military and to serve and protect the US and us. These are great ceremonies and a lot more fun than the send offs. Just to see if you read all of this, Emmet county is the state leader with one gardener reporting their hours.

Dean Brand, Steering Committee Chairman drbrand@mediacombb.net

Bus Trips Update

We still have some openings for our bus trip to the Quad Cities on July 30th and July 31st. We will be visiting four private gardens, three public gardens and two nurseries - lots of fun for this two day trip. The registration fee includes admission to all of the gardens, the bus, most meals and your hotel room on Saturday night. For more information on the trip, please go to the registration form posted on the Polk County Master Gardener website, or contact Laurie Barrick.

Laurie Barrick 278-8792 barrick8792@msn.com

Community Information

Central Iowa Water Garden Association's Annual Pond Tour will be on Saturday, July 16th. With proceeds from last year's Tour we were able to install a water feature at the Enabling Garden at the Polk County Master Gardeners' garden in Altoona and also the Animal Rescue League. This year's *Tour, Ponds, Plants, Paradise* features 6 wonderful water gardens.

Demonstration Garden News

The summer "How Does a Garden Grow" series has started its tenth year off with 2 great classes, with 55 and 40 people in attendance. If you missed the rose class and a wonderful presentation about gardening despite vision loss, you still have time to attend the remaining classes. Here's a [list](#) of the Demonstration Garden classes. Thanks to Shelley Lande and Roger Erpelding for 2 great classes!

The Open House, scheduled for Thursday, July 14 (6 pm to dusk) will be a great time to see some really creative gardens and decorations. Hosta Haven features a living wall this year and the Theme Garden shows off "Rainbow Connections" and researches a lot of areas about rainbows-songs, myths, romance...and you thought it was just about Roy.G.Biv! (I forgot the "I" is for "indigo")! It is obvious that the garden leads have been nurturing their gardens, as they continue to feature many colors and healthy flowers and vegetables. Be sure to bring someone to the open house and wear your garden hat. Creativity is welcomed there too! There is still time to volunteer to help. Contact Susan Mahedy at susanmahedy@aol.com. For a poster to share with neighbors and co-workers, [click here](#).

A welcome addition to the garden is the extension of the dwarf conifer gardens. If you've been curious as to what was going on the final 2 berms, wonder no more! Barry Laws from Quilted Gardens did a wonderful job designing the berms, adding attractive outcropping with stones and a special miniature dwarf garden. The variations in shapes, textures and colors really exceeded our expectations. It is a nice compliment to the updated rose garden and it is hard to believe that only a few years ago these were just rings drawn on some plans. Thanks to Kent Zarley for his intuitive and creativity. His design work has been a real complement to the Demonstration Garden. Thanks also to the hard work of Jerry Ferrell, Susan and Bruce Travis, Dale Millis, Christine McFarland, Cindy Miller and Barry Laws for the installation of the rocks and plants. Thanks as well to Marilyn Russie for taking pictures and labeling plants. Looking forward to seeing you at the garden!



Margaret Spikes, project chair 984-9064, margaretspikes@wellsfargo.com

Directory Updates

Ron Reed has a new phone number - 515-770-3434
 Denis and Anne Finch have new cell phones
 Denis is answering 515-205-5090
 Anne's cell is 515-205-1527 and work is 515-247-7506
 Robert King has a new email - kkingrc@g.com
 Betty Perry is now using email perryclones@gmail.com
 Jim Meisch has changed email to jcmeisch@g.com

Discovery Garden

Three hundred and fifty people visited the garden on June 18th, asking questions and telling us that they enjoyed seeing it in an early stage. A lot of them will return during the fair and do a "before and after" comparison of the flowers. It was a good preparation for the fair hosting which will start August 11th.

The Polk County Master Gardeners Discovery Garden submitted an entry in the Iowa State Fair's Cow Painting Contest for the 100 Year Celebration of the Butter Cow and was accepted! In the application, we named our design Cow le Flower in the Discovery Garden and will use the perennial *Heliopsis* *Lorraine Sunshine* as our design. "The Polk County Master Gardeners feel as if the beautiful, luminous, yellow, daisy-like blooms will represent the color of the pure, cream butter and highlight the plants in the Discovery Garden at the Iowa State Fair. Additionally, a perennial plant is like the Butter Cow at the Iowa State Fair - you know you will see it year after year!" MG Betty Lemke will be painting the cow on behalf of the Discovery Garden - thank you Betty!

Please join us each Wednesday evening from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm for our work nights as we begin our planting season. This is a great opportunity for new interns or current Master Gardeners to meet the bed heads and earn volunteer hours.

The Iowa State Fair is August 11th-21st, and Polk County Master Gardeners will be available each day from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm to answer questions of the State Fair visitors. To sign up for shifts, contact Jean Roe 279-8705, ljroe@ecity.net, or you can go to our web page www.discoverygardenpcmg.org and be connected to her email.

Discover Gardening at the Discovery Garden is a series of educational talks presented to the public at no charge. Remember to bring your lawn chair or blanket to sit on and feel free to wander through the Garden before you leave and enjoy the beauty. All Programs begin at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Hope to see you there!

July 13 COLEUS PROGRAM

 Leanna Culver
 Polk County Master Gardener

July 27 ORGANIC LAWN CARE PROGRAM

 Brad Mann, Safe Earth Lawn & Garden

SEPT. 7 TOMATOES*

 Judy and Bill Goshorn
 Polk County Master Gardeners
 *This class starts at 6:30 pm

"Each flower is a soul opening out to nature" Gerald de Nerval
Jean Roe, Dean Brand, Cheree Tilton, & Patrick Schmitt, co-chairs
Nancy Bodine & crew, publicity

Dubuque Tour

The Dubuque Master Gardeners Tour of Gardens is Sunday, July 10. For details, [click here](#).

Enabling Garden Update

June is always a mesmerizing time in the garden, every day the garden has some thing new to enjoy, The Enabling Garden is awaking to its full summer splendor. The garden has many visitors this time of year, it may not of been the their original destination but the garden never fails to pull them in as they pass by along the Prairie Heritage trail, bike and walking trail.

Master Gardener Tina Gosslink shared with us her talent for making amazing flower arrangements for our June garden talk. Tina with bucket in hand strolled around the garden and collected flowers and foliage, and in no time had showed us how to make 10 beautiful arrangements. Leaving us all inspired to go home and do the same I am sure. Thank you Tina for sharing your talents with us.

Our featured garden talk for July will be "Beneficial Insects and Beyond" by Dr. Donald Lewis, ISU Entomologist. Grab your garden hat and lawn chairs and join us for this sure to be enlightening look into the world of our small friends the insects. July 23rd at 10:00 a.m. 1050 1st Ave South.

Sandie Hamilton, bhamil7132@aol.com

Farmers Market Information Booth

The June Farmer's Market was a perfect morning for answering questions about gardening. Although the skies looked like rain, our Saturday appearance was dry which brought out large crowds of market visitors and a constant stream of questions. The topic for June focused on picking perennials appropriate for sun and we had over 100 questions covering a wide range of gardening issues.

July 16th will be our next visit to the market and we'll be sharing information about shade perennials. Be sure to come down to the market and say hello. We have no idea where we'll be located, but it will give you an excuse to cover the entire market looking for us! It is always nice to see other Master Gardeners downtown and we hope to see you there.

Aaron Greiner and Sarah Piziali aarongreiner@mchsi.com 262-4187

Gardeners Show House News

We have some fantastic, colorful new displays in the Show House, for our summer theme: "Color Festival." Come take a look at what our creative volunteers have done!

Our first annual coleus sale was a success. A big thank you to all of you who helped. And thank you to everyone who shopped, and passed the word on to their gardening friends.

Mary Howell-Williams, project chair 556-3684, mhwphoto@mchsi.com

Upcoming Education Opportunities Time is short for enrolling

July 18 & 19, are MG Summer Session and the 3rd Annual All Horticulture Field Day at ISU Hort. Research Station at Gilbert, IA. See State MG web page for [registration form](#). Registration deadline is next week and no late registration will be taken.

Garden Tour 2011

Five hundred fifty one people purchased a ticket for the garden tour this year! Thirty of those people were Greene County MGs. Our garden tour was their "mystery bus tour" destination!

If you have any photographs from the pre-tour or the garden tour, please email them to: mwalkedesign@mac.com.

On behalf of the Garden Tour Committee, I would like to thank the Host Gardeners for another successful garden tour. All gardens looked fantastic even though the gardeners had to endure some rounds of severe weather leading up to the tour. We also want to thank all of the garden preparation and tour day volunteers, who helped make the day a success. It just couldn't have happened without you!

I would like to extend a big "Thank you!" to the Garden Tour Committee. They worked so hard to organize a top-notch event and managed to have fun while doing so!
Educational Demonstrations - Rita Minard; Map & Ticket Design - Jim & Kathy Winter;
Publicity - Mary Jean Cochran & Carol Nading; Raffle - Eric Culp; Volunteers & Pre-Tour Bus - Margo Hay & Bonnie McCaughey.

Again, many thanks to the Garden Hosts - the Discovery Garden team, Mary Smith, Cheree Tilton, Christine Flickinger, Denny and Jeff Brady, Sherry Hollingsworth, Donna Dillow, Ron Haug and Beth Jordan, and ALL of the volunteers!

We are already working on plans for the 2012 garden tour. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Michelle Walke mwalkedesign@mac.com.

Michelle Walke, Garden Tour Chair 225-8265

Summer Webinar Series: Garden Natives & Invasives 2011

The series will highlight management of invasive plant species (weeds) and discuss viable native plants for use in the landscape.

When: 4th Tuesday of each month this summer; May 24th, June 28th, July 26th, and Aug 23rd from 6:30-8:30pm with a 10 min break

How: The setup will be similar to MG training, therefore webcasts will be delivered via Adobe Connect at Extension offices.

Tallgrass Prairies of Iowa is the topic of the session on July 26. During this session, the history and reach of the Tallgrass Prairie Center located in Cedar Falls, Iowa, will be displayed. The mission of the Tallgrass Prairie Center is to 'develop research, techniques, education and Source Identified seed for restoration and preservation of prairie vegetation...'. Daryl Smith, from the Tallgrass Prairie Center and University of Northern Iowa, is the presenter.

We would like to know if you plan to attend.

Virginia Hunnell, vhunnell@iastate.edu 957-5762

PCMG 2011 Summer Classes

This may be hard to read but you can print a full size version [here](#).

Polk County Master Gardener educational talks presented to the public at no charge. Remember to bring your lawn chair or blanket to sit on and feel free to wander through the Gardens before you leave and enjoy the beauty.

<p>How Does A Garden Grow series At the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden 92nd & Dewey Gibbs Road, Urbandale All Programs begin at 7:00 pm</p>	<p>A Season of Learning at the Enabling Garden Located 1050 1st Ave South Altoona "Where Disabilities Become Abilities." 2011 classes start at 10 a.m.</p>	<p>Discover Gardening at the Discovery Garden Outside the Ag Building at the Iowa State Fair Grounds</p>
<p>June 16 Annual Arbor Day Celebrat Everything is Coming up Roses <i>Shelley Lande, Master Gardener</i></p>	<p>April 16 Arbor Day Celebration Dr. Jeff Iles, ISU Horticulture</p>	<p>All Programs begin at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Hope to see you there!</p>
<p>June 23 There's a Blind Man in My Garden! Roger Erpelding, <i>Master Gardener</i></p>	<p>May 21 Photography in the Garden Sharon Powell</p>	<p>June 8 OWLS Patrice Peterson-Keys Environmental Educational Coordinator, Polk County DNR</p>
<p>June 30 No Class – Enjoy the Holiday!</p>	<p>June 11 The Enjoyment of Flower Arranging MG Tina Gosselink</p>	<p>June 22 TREES AT THE DISCOVERY GARDEN Emma Bruemmer State Urban Forester, Forestry Bureau Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources</p>
<p>July 7 Got Dwarf Conifers? <i>Larry Skellenger and Barry Laws, Quilted Gardens</i></p>	<p>July 23 Beneficial Insects and Beyond Dr. Donald Lewis, ISU Entomology</p>	<p>July 13 COLEUS PROGRAM Leanna Culver Polk County Master Gardener</p>
<p>July 14 Open House <i>Various displays</i></p>	<p>August 13 The Joy of Gardening With Physical Modifications & Concerns Cindy Bowen, Mercy Hospital</p>	<p>July 27 ORAGANIC LAWN CARE PROGRAM Brad Mann, Safe Earth Lawn & Garden</p>
<p>July 21 Getting More From Your Landscaping <i>Jennifer Bousselot, Master Gardener</i></p>	<p>September 10 Exploration of Sensory Plants Dr. Cindy Haynes, ISU Horticulture</p>	<p>Sept. 7 TOMATOES* Judy and Bill Goshorn Polk County Master Gardeners *This class starts at 6:30 pm</p>
<p>July 28 Preserving your Garden Produce <i>Jennifer Richards, Local Gardener</i></p>		
<p>August 4 Art in Your Garden <i>A host of talented folks</i></p>		

You can also find a link on the PCMG web page.

Recurring MG Calendar!

Monday evening work nights at Demonstration Garden
Tuesday & Saturday mornings Botanical Center Gardeners Show House work sessions
Tuesday evening work nights at Enabling Garden
Wednesday and Saturday mornings at PCMG greenhouse, done until Feb. 2012
Wednesday evening work nights at Discovery Garden
Friday morning work session at BC River Walk

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to mfarlow@iastate.edu by mfarlow@iastate.edu | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Polk County Master Gardeners | 1625 Adventureland Drive | Suite A | Altoona | IA | 50009