

**Johnson Co. MASTER GARDENER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 7pm, Zoom Meeting

Johnson County Master Gardeners-Please contact [bielicke@iastate.edu](mailto:bielicke@iastate.edu)  
to be sent an email invite to join the meeting.

Virtual Meeting Zoom; Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to start or join.

<https://iastate.zoom.us/j/97709658329?pwd=RnBMSGdSbmxRenZISjk2bDBJTGIKUT09>

Or, go to <https://iastate.zoom.us/join> and enter meeting ID: 977 0965 8329 and  
password: 901018 Join from dial-in phone line: Dial: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923  
Meeting ID: 977 0965 8329

**JCMG Meeting Agenda**

1. Call to order
2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
  - a. General Fund: \$8,385.04 Balance
  - b. Plum Grove: \$ 1204.59 Balance
  - c. Butterfly House: \$2167.04 Balance
  - d. New or Known Pending Receipts:
4. Review of JCMG Steering Committee Meeting Calendar (Located in Bylaws)
5. Old Business
  - a. Project Review procedures
6. New Business
  - a. Change in Project Leader for Raptor Center & Coralville School House
  - b. In-person or Zoom meetings
7. Adjourn
  - a. Date of Next Meeting: March 9, 2022
  - b. Thymes Newsletter Deadline: February 25, 2022

**Project Updates:**

**Attended Displays:** Chris Sedrel, Jackie Wellborn- No Response.

**Butterfly House at Fairgrounds:** Carolyn Murphy, Mike Murphy- working on details for the silent auction to be held during the plant sale & flea market in May.

**Coralville Historical School House:** Cindy Parsons, Doug Parsons- The Historic Coralville Schoolhouse gardens needs a new chairperson; due to family commitments Doug and Cindy cannot head this up any longer. We can probably still work there occasionally, but not on a regular basis. I would be willing to transition with a new person to show him/her the ropes, etc.

**Ecumenical Towers: Michael Hesseltine, Recruiting new co-leader.** – nothing new on the ET site.

**Demo Garden: Ann Ruppenkamp, Chris Sedrel** – No Response.

**Downtown City Projects Linda Schreiber** - Request to increase the budget to \$500 for 2022. After 10-plus years of cannas and daylilies on the south side garden of Capital Street Parking Garage, we had planned to update the garden with perennial torch lilies and grasses and avoid the cost of planting sweet potato ivy each spring. However, costs were too high for the existing budget. After discussing the design with Iowa City Park staff and an interest to update the garden to incorporate a *perennial movement design* to complement other downtown gardens, the design was changed. We will use *Heliopsis* and *Andropogon gerardii* Blackhawk grass plugs and cover a greater area than originally planned. We were also able to order plant plugs through the city and reimburse them for the costs, which are greater than the \$300 approved.

**Fair Grounds Rain Garden & Flower Beds: Chris Sedrel & Lavon Yeggy**- No Response.

**Firefighters' Memorial: Barb Schintler** - Nothing new from the Fire Fighters Memorial

**Fundraising/Flea Market: Emil Rinderspacher, Darlene Clausen** - The Plant Sale Planning Committee has resumed its work in preparation for the Sale and Flea Market on Sat. May 7. At our January meeting, we reviewed all the work we did in early 2020 before the shutdown. We now have a project calendar to guide our planning and work. Working documents are now being published on the Plant Sale web page at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/icmg-plant-sale-flea-market> . Our next planning meeting is Wed. Feb 23 from 7-8:30pm via Zoom.

**Hortline: Esther Retish** - Hortline continues through the winter which not as busy as spring, summer and fall.

**Hospice Garden at Willow Creek Park: Melanie Hauptert** - will order some new hostas for the park soon. I am planning to begin a more consistent watering routine after we begin work for 2022; watering the plants every week unless we have had at least 1 inch of rain. We will not be at the park until late in April.

**Master Gardener Educational Training: – Linda Schreiber, Jackie Wellborn, Doug Geraets** - We are planning an in-person program on Sunday, March 6, 1:30 - 4 p.m., *Perennial Movement Design: the Role of Native Plants*, Tyler Baird, Iowa City Park Superintendent; *What's Wrong With My Tree?*, Mike Anderson, Linn County Master Gardener; *Grow Johnson County Improves Food Access*, Jason Grimm, Executive Director, and Clare Zabel, Food and Farm Specialist. Attendees are urged to follow COVID-19 precaution guidelines to wear a face mask. If you are unable to wear a face mask, please consider watching the program on our Facebook page, City Channel 4 or on our YouTube channel at a later date. Master Gardeners will be asked to sign-up to attend as seating will be limited. The alternate program date is March 20.

**Johnson County Fair / 4-H Buckets of Flowers, Scarecrow: Lavon Yeggy, Vicki Siefers** – No Response.

**Oaknoll Garden Project: Marilou Gay, Vicki Siefers, Deb Cassell** - Jo Benda has sent out the list of annuals for residents to order for their gardens. The Oaknoll gardeners last had a group meeting in October of 2019 when they had the annual thank you luncheon. The group has not been able to gather since then, but individual gardeners continue to help their Oaknoll pals in a solitary fashion. I am hopeful we can weather this and have a group gathering this spring or summer, otherwise I have concerns about holding the group together. Vicki Siefers

**Plum Grove: Lavon Yeggy, Carolyn Murphy, Darlene Clausen, Betty Kelly, Joanne Leach**- We have 2 volunteer openings in Grandma's Heirloom Garden due to illness. If you know any MG looking for an area to care for on regular basis and likes heirloom flowers or wants to learn about them, let Carolyn know. Darlene and Carolyn are collecting a list of seeds to order. Darlene has offered to place the orders. The fence repairs in the vegetable garden will be a priority as soon as the weather permits. Darlene, Carolyn & Lavon

**Raptor Center Gardens: Ann Tvedte, Alice Linhart** – Change in Project Leader for Raptor Center Alice is stepping down. No change for the raptor center, cleaned out the beds again and put down landscape fabric to reduce the volunteer nonnative plants. Planted some gathered seeds. Plan to gather more plants in the spring and through the summer to establish a garden based on the remnant at MRNA.

**Speakers Bureau: Jackie Wellborn** - No Response.

**Social Events: Beth Fisher** - No Response.

**Thymes: Doug Geraets, Melissa Serenda** - As readers can appreciate, we have continued to receive excellent article submissions for the newsletter. The addition of Hortline Q/A has been a new feature and hopefully well received.

For the blog (established and maintained by Melissa at [jcmg-thymes.com](http://jcmg-thymes.com)), three articles were posted from the *Thymes* in December and no new articles in January. December 2021 had 88 views from 63 visitors; January 2022 had 95 views from 39 visitors. Most of that traffic came from sharing the articles on the JCMG Facebook page, but we also had people accessing the Blog from the Extension website or by way of a general web search.

#### **Additional Notes:**

**Seed Share** - During the pandemic, proprietary seed companies have indicated they are focusing on community gardens. With a very limited number of seed packets received to date (125-ish), should JCMG do the same? In past years we had more than 1,000 packets to offer gardeners. Linda Schreiber

**40th Anniversary** - Discovering the names of early project leaders as the review of old issues of the *Thymes* newsletters continues. Linda Schreiber