



July-August 2023

Project Coordinators

Click on a name to email the listed coordinator:

1876 Coralville Schoolhouse

Karen Martinek

Butterfly House at Fairgrounds

Carolyn Murphy, Mike Murphy

Demonstration Garden

Chris Sedrel, Laurie Roehl

Downtown City Gardens

Linda Schreiber

Ecumenical Towers

Michael Hesseltine, John Weeg

Fairgrounds Beautification

Chris Sedrel, Laurie Roehl

Firefighters' Memorial

Barb Schintler

Hortline

Mary Starry

Hospice Gardens

Melanie Haupt

Oaknoll Garden Project

Vicki Siefers, Deb Cassell

Plant Sale/Flea Market

Emil Rinderspacher

Plum Grove

Darlene Clausen, Lavon Yeggy, Carolyn Murphy

Rain Garden

Lavon Yeggy

Speakers Bureau

Megan Garrels

Thymes Newsletter

Melissa Serenda, Doug Geraets

Yard & Garden Info

Jackie Wellborn, Kay Mohling

Volunteer at Plum Grove Taste of Heritage Gardens

BY CAROLYN MURPHY

The Taste of Heritage Gardens will be Wednesday, July 12, from 5:30 to 7 P.M., at Plum Grove, 1030 Carroll St, Iowa City. In case of inclement weather, it will be held at the Extension Office. The Post Office Brass Band will provide the music. It is a great event to meet other Master Gardeners and the public. Beth Fisher has had a meeting to plan the menu and will be contacting people to cook. Please deliver food by 5 P.M.. If you cannot stay to serve, please let someone know.

The week of the event, possibly Monday, 2–3 people are needed to help print and staple the cookbook. Let Carolyn Murphy know if you are available to help with this project.

Besides cooks and servers, volunteers are needed for the following tasks before and during the event. If you wish to volunteer for a particular task, please let Carolyn know.



- 9:30 A.M.—Transporting tables/chairs to Plum Grove—Doug Geraets in charge.
- 10 A.M.—Set-up & arranging table/chairs, placing tablecloths on tables—Barb Schintler in charge—come if you can help.
- 4 P.M.—Flower arranging - Arranging bouquets or dropping off fresh flowers. Bring your scissors and join us. The flower arrangements are used as door prizes and table centerpieces. Bring fresh cut flowers from your

MG Steering Committee Meeting

Next meeting **Wednesday, August 9**, 6:30 P.M. (no meeting in July); hybrid meeting at Extension Office and by Zoom. All MGs are invited to attend; [contact Shannon](#) for more details!

Thymes Deadline

Information/articles for the *Thymes* should be sent to Melissa Serenda at jcmg.thymes@gmail.com. Please send news, volunteer opportunities, stories, pictures, gardening book reviews, etc., for the September issue by **Friday, August 25**.

garden (or the neighbors), potted plants or items appropriate for table centerpieces.

- 5 P.M.—parking attendants – need 2-3 people
- Garden host – 3 people
- Tickets/cookbook sales – 2-3 people
- Helping carry trays for guests – 3 people (some of the regulars are older guest)
- Clean-up – All. Please stay and help clean up if you can.
- Returning tables/chairs – Doug’s crew

If you volunteer, please be there by 5 P.M. or earlier if requested.

Contact Carolyn Murphy (319-541-7079), Lavon Yeggy (319-330-0951), Darlene Clausen (319-400-5299), or Beth Fisher (319-321-8378) with any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for volunteering.

Seed Share 2023 Revived

BY LINDA SCHREIBER

The COVID-19 pandemic put Seed Share on hiatus in 2022 as proprietary seed companies focused donations solely on community gardens. Invitations for 2023 donations went out after the winter holidays bringing another lackluster response and putting the program on life support.

In June, however, JCMG received notice of a very generous seed packet donation from Lowe’s that revived Seed Share for 2023. Current seed packets were picked up on June 5. The packets were sorted and divided and a partnership with Table to Table made quick deliveries possible. Two distributions were made to five area food pantries that benefit food-insecure persons and to Johnson County’s three community seed libraries.

A box of seed packets focusing on fall gardening was set aside for a T2T/AmeriCorps summer program beginning in July. T2T/AmeriCorps staff will visit four mobile home courts to offer residents free garden produce and Seed Share 2023 seeds.

T2T estimated the weight of the 17 boxes of seeds at more than 100 pounds. Due to the volume of packets, they were not counted this year.

To show our appreciation for the new partnerships, information and testimonials will be

collected from area pantries and seed libraries to acknowledge and recognize the contribution and express appreciation to our partners who have already expressed interest in continuing the project in 2024.

Informational programs will be held in January/February about starting tomato, onion and pepper seeds. Seeds and starting kits will be offered to participants. If you’re interested in helping let me know.

Thanks go to our Seed Share 2023 partners Table to Table; Coralville Food Pantry, CommUnity Food Bank, Hills Food Pantry, North Liberty Community Pantry, and Solon Food Pantry; and seed libraries located in the North Liberty Library, Springmier Community Library in Tiffin and Swisher Community Library.

Planty Podcasts

BY MELISSA SERENDA

Whether you are looking to learn more about botany and plants, or you just like having something to listen to while working in the garden and around the house, there are podcasts to help pass the time. Here are a few of my favorites, plus a bonus suggestion.

In Defense of Plants



<https://www.indefenseofplants.com/podcast>

Host Matt Candeias speaks with researchers and others about plants, ecology, and the importance of plant conservation from a more scientific perspective. Though focused on botany and ecology, the podcast covers a wide range of topics with recent episodes titled “Plants and Habitat Fragmentation”, “Uncovering the Mysteries of Galls”, and “Investigating Invasiveness.”

Planthropology



<https://www.planthropologypod.com/>

With its charismatic host Vikram Baliga, PhD, this podcast delves into horticulture and plant appreciation with wide-ranging and conversational interviews with

experts in the field. You can also find humorous short-form musings on TikTok [@theplantprof](https://www.tiktok.com/@theplantprof).

The next two podcasts focus primarily on houseplants.

Growing Joy

<https://growingjoywithmaria.com/podcast/>



Host Maria Failla goes beyond just plants to focus on planty lifestyles and the way sharing our lives with plants can bring wellness and joy in so many aspects. Recent episodes cover such diverse topics as “How to Overcome Burnout through the Healing Power of Nature” to “How to Grow Mushrooms Indoors”, and fans have a supportive and positive community online.



On the Ledge



<https://www.janeperrone.com/on-the-ledge>

London-based Jane Perrone focuses almost exclusively on houseplants, with an archive of hundreds of episodes that are conveniently [sorted by topic](#) for those catching up. Learn about everything from basic care to pests and diseases to propagation and more.

Arthro-Pod



<http://arthro-pod.blogspot.com/>

Like it or not (I happen to like it...a lot), insects are an important part of gardening. This podcast, hosted by a trio of entomologists, covers all things arthropods including garden pests, as well as venturing into discussions about Monarchs, carnivorous plants, and more.

Open Gardens Weekend 2023

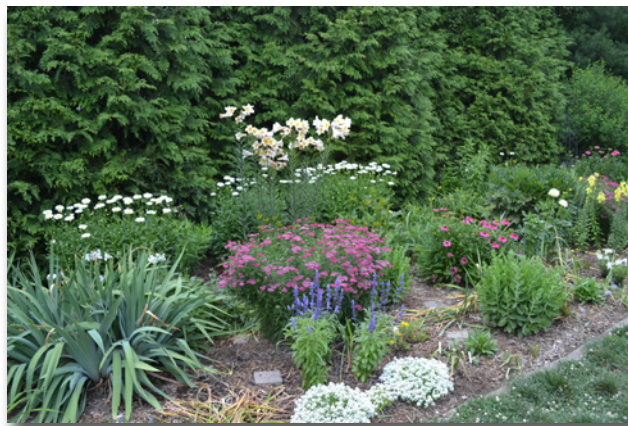
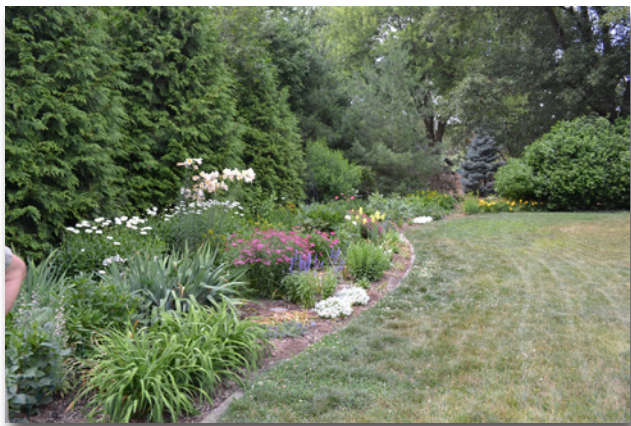
BY LINDA SCHREIBER

Anthophiles (flower lovers) and nature enthusiasts will have an opportunity to participate in a favorite free activity when Project GREEN presents Open Gardens Weekend 2023 on July 8-9.

OGW draws visitors from throughout eastern Iowa. They know these marvelous gardens are worth the trip for beauty and inspiration. This year, Project GREEN has curated 30 host gardens—private and public—that will open to the public without charge on Saturday from 4 to 8 P.M. and Sunday from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Two Master Gardeners will share their gardens on the OGW 2023. Both are encore presenters.

Bryon and Anne Vandenberg, 373 Boyd Court, Iowa City, planted giant arborvitae and tall viburnums to

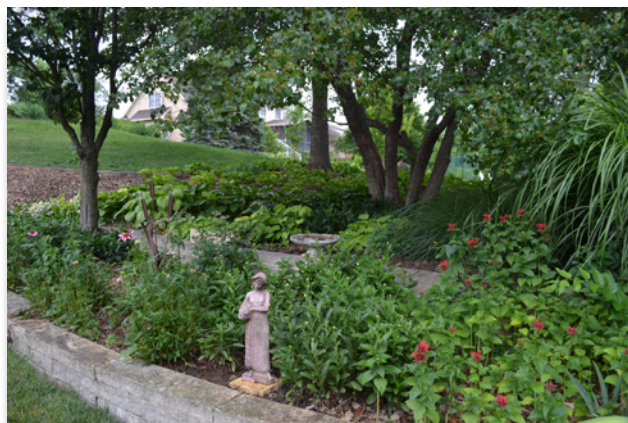


Vandenberg Gardens

surround flower gardens creating a private, park-like setting on their property. As the arborvitae grew so did their gardens. Over time, they removed the lawn, three feet at a time, to add more garden space. Byron has planted complementing varieties of daylilies, Shasta daisies, purple coneflowers, yarrow, dahlias, gladiolas

and annuals to sequence their English-style, cutting flower garden with blooms throughout the growing season beginning with crocus and daffodils in early spring. “Now, that the bearded iris blooms are done, the daylilies and dahlias are ready to explode with their color,” Bryon says.

Vicki and Dick Siefers, 15 Brown Deer Knoll, Coralville, have installed numerous garden features that



Siefers Gardens

would please anyone. In the back, a wooden pergola with a permeable flagstone patio provides a respite for visitors with a water feature for the birds. Delightful sculptures dot their island gardens. The Siefers’ multi-terraced gardens provide space for a wide array of showy perennial plants and vegetables. A fenced vegetable garden keeps most of the wildlife and critters away. Nearby, a cold frame captures the sun's rays to create a microclimate allowing the Siefers to enjoy early vegetables. Two stormwater retention features—the permeable patio and a rain garden—reduce runoff on their sloping lot. Amy Foster, Coralville stormwater coordinator, will be onsite to discuss the benefits of the city’s stormwater grant program.

Visitors can pick up a tour map at any of the local business sponsors that keep this activity free of charge to plan their route: Forever Green, Inc.; Hills Bank and Trust Company; Hy-Vee; Iowa City Landscaping; Leno & Cilek Ace Hardware; Rindy Inc.; Sanders Creek Company; and Urban Acres Real Estate.

Project GREEN Gardens is the headquarters for OGW. These splendid gardens complement the historic Ashton House, owned by the City of Iowa City at 820 Park Road. The gardens reflect Project GREEN founders' interests. At OGW headquarters, visitors will meet volunteers and also find an assortment of attractive garden containers and garden art available for purchase with the proceeds from sales benefiting Project GREEN.



Siefers Gardens

It's Thyme to: July Edition

BY LINDA SCHREIBER

In July, there's no escaping the Midwest heat. Now, meteorologists are predicting a continuing drought. That's why it is important to keep ahead of watering requirements to avoid losing plants in your gardens. Water early in the morning and deeply to allow moisture to absorb slowly. Water the soil around the base of plants to direct moisture to the roots where it's most needed, not at the foliage. Auto-watering collars or automated drip irrigation systems can help take the work out of watering.

The next best time to water is at dusk. To reduce evaporation, mulch around the plants to retain moisture. Try to avoid watering at midday if possible. Watch for blossom-end rot on tomatoes and peppers that occurs when soil moisture is uneven. Maintaining a 2-3 inch layer of mulch will reduce watering needs.

Deadheading spring flowering bulbs helps the plants avoid wasting energy to produce seeds. When the leaves turn yellow, remove the leaves and lightly fertilize. Deadhead spent blooms on perennial plants.

Cut back growth in hanging baskets to revive the display and encourage new flowers. Tidy and deadhead annual bedding plants to stop them from self-seeding. Also, remove suckers from indeterminate tomato plants and support them with stakes or cages.

Weeds love the July heat. Continue to weed to prevent them from overtaking the garden.

Watch for insect infestations and monitor your plants for fungal diseases: septoria leaf spot, powdery mildew and rust. Japanese beetles cause damage during the first part of the month but will eventually taper off.

Regularly harvest ripe vegetables to improve yields. Pick the berries before the birds do. Covering plants with bird netting may protect blueberries from birds. Cantaloupes are ready to pick when the stem "slips" easily from the fruit with gentle pressure. Keep cucumbers watered to prevent a bitter flavor. Harvest onions and garlic as leaves turn brown.

July is the time to divide and replant bearded iris to give the plants time to form roots and flower buds

for next year. It's also a good time to take cuttings from shrubs and border perennials and overwinter indoors.

Prune out and destroy old fruiting canes after the raspberry harvest is complete.

Routinely clean birdfeeders and waterers.

Fertilize container plants every two weeks with a water-soluble fertilizer.

Newly planted trees and shrubs must be watered thoroughly, once a week throughout the fall.

Do not let newly seeded lawns or new sod dry out in hot weather. If hot, dry weather persists, set mower blades at the highest level to reduce stress on the grass. Keep mower blades sharpened to prevent leaf blade damage and reduce stress on the lawn.

Plant zinnia seeds by July 4 for a late-season border. Late July is a good time to sow carrots, beets, turnips, peas, lettuce, kale, summer squash and radishes as crops are harvested for a second crop in the fall. Also set out broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower transplants for a fall garden.

July is the time when cicadas start to sing!

Sources:

- <https://www.thompson-morgan.com>
- <https://www.TheSpruce.com>
- <https://www.backyardgardener.com>
- <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org>



July is the time when cicadas start to sing!
(Photo via [Sycamore Greenway Friends](#))



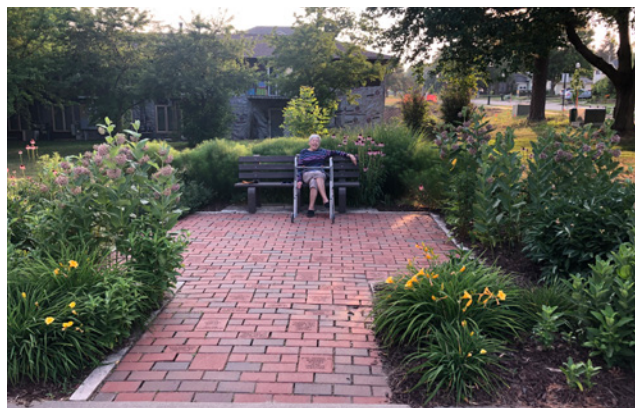
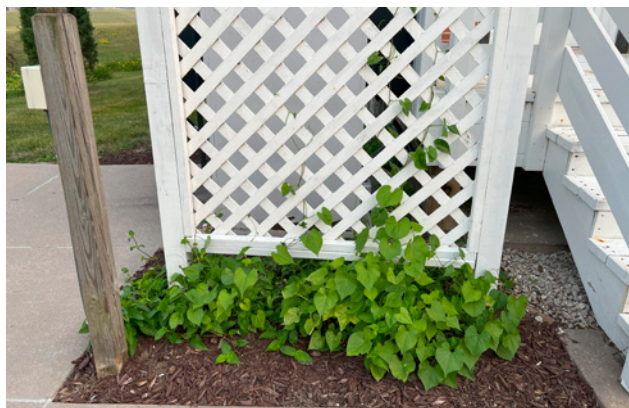
Project Updates

1876 Coralville Schoolhouse

KAREN MARTINEK, COORDINATOR

It was pointed out to me that our gardens are always changing. It couldn't be more true. I've attached a picture of a friend taken by Bonnie Penno enjoying the brick patio at the Coralville Schoolhouse. She enjoyed the peaceful atmosphere and fragrances of the coneflowers, daylilies and milkweed that are all in full bloom. The spaces in this brick patio were terribly overgrown with weeds and thanks to our crew, especially Bonnie, have been totally cleared and once again look beautiful.

It has been a difficult few weeks at the garden with the extreme heat and the need for constant watering, followed by rain, storms and poor air quality from Canadian wildfires. However, our crew has been enjoying the cooler weather this week and summer aroma of the gardens. This evening I visited the gardens and they have thrived with the recent rains. The zinnias are blooming and our morning glory seeds have sprouted and are headed up their trellis with the hope of blooms soon to come. The gardens are ever changing and I can't wait to see what the rest of the summer will bring.



Fairgrounds Rain Garden

LAVON YEGGY AND MEGAN GARRELS, COORDINATORS

The raingarden is full of blooms right now including July bloomers! The picture this month has six different plants blooming—can you see all of them?

For the first time in over 10 years we had to water the entire garden. We're very thankful for recent rains.



Butterfly House at Fairgrounds

CAROLYN MURPHY AND MIKE MURPHY, COORDINATORS

Yes, it is fair time again. We could use your help—and you can learn about butterflies, no experience necessary. The fair will be held July 23–26.

A training session will be held Saturday, July 22, 10 – 11:30 A.M. (recommended if you haven't volunteered in the past and of course a refresher course for those who have helped before). We will cover the variety of butterflies we have as well as provide information about how we will operate the hoop house and some of the new displays. And yes—we will train you how to handle a butterfly.

An email with Signup Genius has been sent out, however if you prefer, you can contact me directly to sign up for a shift(s). Lucy, Cassy, and her crew will set up on Thursday or Friday.

Let me know if you are raising butterflies, moths, or other insects and would like to share (we will make room for you), or if you are interested in warming up the butterflies after we receive them (most likely on Friday...I am not sure what time) and releasing them from the envelopes. We're also happy to hear about any new ideas for Kids' Day activities.

Don't forget to come out on Wednesday at 5 P.M. to see the Monarch release!

Thank you to those who have already signed up. We are still in need of volunteers on Monday and Tuesday for the 4-7 P.M. shift, and Wednesday (afternoon shifts). We could also use help putting up tents and setting up Millie the caterpillar tunnel on Saturday after the training.

Contact Carolyn & Mike Murphy, candmmurphy@aol.com, 319-541-7079.



Ecumenical Towers

MICHAEL HESSELTINE AND JOHN WEEG, COORDINATORS

What's new at Ecumenical Towers you ask? After finally getting some rain things are about to really start blooming! This year we have seen a real jump in the numbers of native plants in our western-most garden at the SW corner of the site—so much so that we have a rose bush that has been crowded out and will have to find a new place to live. We also lost a red ornamental maple that had been in the gardens for about eight years. On the bright side, the perennial bed we mulched and tilled last year is greatly thinned down and cleaned up. Remaining plants have some room to breathe.

On Thursday, June 22, we met on the patio for a "Patio Talk" with the residents. It was a hot day but good conversation. The residents were really focused on a couple of items. They wanted to know where we were at with planning raised beds. This is something that is in the planning stage and will take some time to raise funds as this is a downtown street-facing public space. Whatever we choose to do will need to look attractive as well as be functional. We answered some questions about the space in the alley where residents garden themselves. We also discussed how to best care for the existing beds and answered "what is this" questions, which was enjoyable. Lastly, we spoke of the changes we hoped to make this fall: we have plans to create a new garden ellipse in the center of the main greenspace featuring native Iowa plants with an extension of our existing water feature in the center. We can't wait to break the sod and when we do we will have pictures to share.

Thank you to all the volunteers who help on Sunday mornings. Please feel free to drop in and weed at any time you like. There will always be bindweed and creeping Charlie just waiting for your eager attention!

Plum Grove Gardens

DARLENE CLAUSEN, CAROLYN MURPHY, AND LAVON YEGGY, COORDINATORS

In the vegetable garden we're still making fence repairs to keep out critters. We moved a bunnies nest out of the garden to the cool of the shade. New plant chicken wire cloches are coming to protect plants. Helene Donta has reworked the compost area to make it easier to mow in front. The signs are moved to the back, and we have fresh compost for use.

In Grandma's Flower Garden we are watering and weeding regularly. The orange poppies have faded, and the larkspur is stealing the show. We also have had bunnies in the flower garden. Chicken wire has been added to cover the holes.

We are watering the Wildflower Garden new plantings and weeding regularly. The new hoses are getting lots of use. Looking forward to lots of color for the tasting party.



Compost bins at Plum Grove

Yard & Garden Information

JACKIE WELLBORN AND KAY MOHLING, COORDINATORS

On June 3 the Yard & Garden Information volunteers joined the container garden event at the Coralville Community Food Pantry. As a part of our Growing Together grant Jackie Wellborn, Kay Mohling, Melissa Close, Raina Banh, and Shannon Bielicke answered gardening questions, handed out recipes and provided gardening resources, along with helping around 30 pantry customers pot up the provided tomatoes in buckets and offered as much advice as we could. There was often a language barrier and we learned the next time we participate in something like this we will bring information and recipe cards in more languages. It was a successful event.

On July 23–26 the Yard & Garden volunteers will be at the Johnson County 4-H & FFA Fair 2023 answering a variety of garden questions. We hope to see you there.

Insect Encounters: Question Mark

Polygonia interrogationis

This butterfly was spotted near the Downtown City Gardens during a work session, resting in the grass. Question Marks get their curious name from the pale shape that can be found on their underwing (not visible here). They generally overwinter as adult butterflies, and use elms, hackberries, nettles, and Japanese hops as larval host plants. Learn more at <https://bugguide.net/node/view/487>.





MG Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

*****Check organization website for cancellations prior to event date.*****

June 2023



100 Grannies

<http://www.100grannies.org>

No events listed this month.



Backyard Abundance

<http://backyardabundance.org/events>

Sunday, July 9, 10–11:30 A.M.

CREATE A MAGICAL FAIRY/GNOME GARDEN. McPherson Park, 1858 7th Ave Ct, Iowa City. Explore the mythology around fairies and gnomes as you create a dwelling for them to bring home to your yard, patio or secret hiding space.

Wednesday, July 12, 6–7 P.M.

FORAGE FOR URBAN EDIBLES. Glendale Park, 1250 E Jefferson St, Iowa City. It's a weed until its lunch.

Saturday, July 22, 10 A.M.–Noon.

CREATE YOUR HERBAL FIRST AID KIT. Plantchanters Residential Garden, 2022 H St, Iowa City. Learn about and prepare herbs for first aid.

Thursday, Aug. 10, 6–7:30 P.M.

CREATE A SOOTHING SENSORY GARDEN. 307 Morningside Dr, Iowa City. Experience how plants can awaken your senses and bring peace to your mind. Together, we will establish a raised bed sensory garden.

Tuesday, Aug. 29, 5:30–7 P.M.

MUSHROOM FORAGING 101. Harvest Preserve, 1645 N Scott Blvd, Iowa City. Learn to safely and enjoyably forage for mushrooms, including the best conditions for foraging and how to identify mushrooms.



Bur Oak Land Trust

<https://buroaklandtrust.org/events-3/>

Saturday, July 22, 10 a.m. – Noon

CRAYFISH CRAWL AT TURKEY CREEK NATURE PRESERVE. Creeks are magical places and important for all kinds of wildlife. We will provide nets for you to skim the water for bugs and crayfish and underwater viewers to see what's going on underneath the surface. You can search the creek bed for fossils, look for fish and clams, and learn to identify tracks of animals commonly found at the preserve.

This program is suitable for children — and adults — of all ages! Activities for the littlest kids will also be available. Plus, we'll have Moo Moo's Ice Cream truck on site from 10:30-11:30 a.m.! The event is free, but registration is required. Meet you at the creek!

****If you plan to walk the creek, please wear secure footwear like water shoes to avoid losing a shoe in the mud or stepping on a rock. You may also want to bring a bottle of water, sunscreen and bug spray.****

<https://buroaklandtrust-bloom.kindful.com/e/crayfish-crawl-at-turkey-creek-nature-preserve?fbclid=IwAR2t9QLwSP3bhqQdkPeLXIdEajVSHu2pgboie96Ya2jXsmMs7JYSy1S6R7A>



Eastern Iowa Bird Watchers/IC Birds

<http://www.iowacitybirdclub.org/events>

Saturday, July 22, All Day.

IOWA CITY BUTTERFLY COUNT. As part of the North American Butterfly Association's Fourth of July Butterfly Count program, we'll visit Kent Park, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Lake Macbride, and other areas to tally as many butterflies as we can find. To participate, contact Chris Edwards by July 19 at 319-430-4732 or credwards@aol.com.

Sunday, July 30, 4 P.M.

BIRD CLUB POTLUCK PICNIC. Sailboat Shelter #1 at the north end of Sail Boat Road NE, Solon, near the south shore of the north arm of the lake. Enjoy the company of old and new birding friends with picnic foods and a beautiful park ambience. Bring a dish to share, your own drink, and table service. An optional bird walk will begin about 6 P.M.

Sunday, Aug. 6, 8 A.M.

FIELD TRIP: HAWKEYE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA. 100 Hawkeye Dr, Oxford. Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area for shorebirds and other early fall migrants. Meet leader Chris Caster at the HWMA parking lot on Swan Lake Road, across from Swan Lake (GPS coordinates 41.776081, 91.675009). We will carpool our way around Hawkeye Wildlife Area. Expect moderate hiking at some viewing areas. Dress for the weather and wet and muddy trails. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Finishing time around noon.

Sunday, Aug 27, 4 P.M.

PELICAN FESTIVAL. At Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area, near the DNR headquarters at 2564 Amana Road NW, Swisher. A family-friendly event to enjoy and learn about our local migrating American White Pelicans. Get close-up looks at pelicans and other birds through our spotting scopes. Attend outdoor presentations on pelicans, raptors, and more. There will be exhibits by many conservation organizations and face painting for the kids.

<https://iowacitybirdclub.org/pelican-festival/>

**IOWA STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Extension and Outreach

Iowa State Extension

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>

No events listed this month.



Johnson County Conservation

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Johnson/Events.aspx>

Saturday, July 8 and 22, Aug. 5, 10:30–11:15 A.M.

RAPTOR MEET & GREET. Whip-Poor-Will Shelter, F.W. Kent Park. Join us for a Raptor Meet & Greet led by volunteers with Raptology! This come-and-go event will allow participants to see various birds of prey up close and ask questions to the knowledgeable

Raptology leaders and volunteers. There is no registration required for this free event, and all ages are welcome. We ask that no dogs be in the Whip-poor-will area during the time of the event, as that is stressful for the birds.

Thursday, July 20, 6-7:30 P.M.

FLIPPIN' FOR HERPS! Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park, 2048 HWY 6 NW, Oxford. Herptiles, or herps for short, refers to both amphibians and reptiles. Join a JCC naturalist this summer to learn about different Iowan herptiles and go on a guided hike looking for herps by flipping cover boards! This is a free event and registration is required. <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Johnson/Park/JOHNSON-COUNTY-EDUCATION-PROGRAMS/Events/22742/Flippin-For-Herps.aspx>

Saturday, July 22, 8:30 P.M.

MOTH NIGHT. Conservation Education Center - F.W. Kent Park, 2048 HWY 6 NW, Oxford. Celebrate the incredible diversity of moths with us through self-guided educational activities and an illuminated night hike through the woods! We will also be sampling for moths all night in celebration of national moth week. Everyone is encouraged to learn, observe, and document as many moths as they can. This is a free event and registration is required. <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Johnson/Park/JOHNSON-COUNTY-EDUCATION-PROGRAMS/Events/22994/Moth-Night.aspx>

Tuesday, Aug. 1, 6-7:30 P.M.

FAMILY TREE-TECTIVES. Kent Park, 2048 Highway 6 NW, Oxford. Join us for a tree ID hike and activity in Kent Park. Learn how to identify trees by leaves, bark, shape, and location. Designed for kids and their grown-ups!

Saturday, Aug. 5, 9-11 A.M.

ROSE MALLOW HIKE. Cedar River Crossing - South Entrance, 5398 160th St. Northeast, Solon. Embrace your wild side for a swamp hike through the south half of Cedar River Crossing. This 3-mile hike is a quest through wetlands and prairie to reach a pond with thousands of rose mallow at peak bloom. Hikers may walk through thigh-high water in some places and tall natural vegetation along the route.

Wednesday, Aug. 16, 30, 2-3:30 P.M.; Aug. 23, 9-10:30 A.M.

VOLUNTEER MONARCH TAGGING. Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park, 2048 Highway 6 NW, Oxford. Volunteers are needed to catch wild monarch butterflies for tagging! Tagged butterflies will journey 2,000 miles to their winter home in Mexico. This activity is great for all ages and is a great way to support monarch butterfly research. Events are dependent on weather conditions and location may be changed depending on monarch activity. Possible locations include Cedar River Crossing, Two Horse Farm, and Kent Park. Updates will be shared via email with all registered participants.



Johnson County-ISU Extension

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/>

Sunday, July 23, 8 A.M. thru Wednesday, July 26, 10 P.M.

JOHNSON COUNTY 4-H & FFA FAIR. Johnson County Fairgrounds.



Linn County-ISU Extension

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/>

No events listed this month.



Project GREEN

<http://www.projectgreen.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/www.projectgreen.org>

Saturday July 8, 4–8 P.M. & Sunday, July 9, 10 A.M.–2 P.M.

OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND 2023. FREE Admission, NO Tickets Necessary! <https://projectgreen.org/events/open-gardens-weekend/>. See article on page 3.



Seed Savers Exchange

<https://www.seedsavers.org/events>

Friday & Saturday, July 21-22. 2023

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE. The 43rd annual Seed Savers Exchange conference will be an exciting weekend with presentations from Dr. Vandana Shiva, world-renowned activist; Rafael Mier, founder and director of Fundación Tortilla; Diane Wilson, author of *The Seed Keeper*; Sean Brock, chef, restaurateur, author; Sam Jett, operations director, Audrey and June restaurants; and more than 20 sessions to choose from over the two-day virtual event. Whether you are a first-time gardener, first-time seed saver, or someone who has been to every one of SSE's summer conferences we know attendees will be inspired by this year's theme, "Seed the Future: Grow Something Good." <https://registration.socio.events/e/2023sseconference>

Saturday, Aug. 5, 5 P.M.–Gates open; 6 P.M

SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE BENEFIT CONCERT. Come early for wine or beer and a garden tour with Diane Ott Whealy; 7 P.M.–Concert begins. A magical benefit concert under the stars and among the gardens with singers and songwriters Lissie, William Elliott Whitmore, David Huckfelt, Dave Moore, and Annie Humphrey. Ticket sales support SSE's nonprofit mission to protect and promote America's garden and food heritage. <https://www.seedsavers.org/concert>



Trees Forever

<https://treesforever.org/events>

Thursday, July 6, 5:30–7:30 P.M.

FRANKLIN COUNTY STEWARDS OF THE BEAUTIFUL LAND: POLLINATORS & PRAIRIE ID. The insects are flying and some prairie flowers are starting to bloom so we will be talking pollinators and prairie. Join Trees Forever and Franklin County Conservation for a fun walk in the prairie learning about plants that pollinators love, tips and tricks for homeowners to attract more pollinators like butterflies, moths, bees, and more. We will meet at the Maynes Grove Lodge at 5:30 for some refreshments before heading out to the prairie for an adventure. Contact: Andrew Rust, 319-440-7756. arust@treesforever.org.

Friday, July 28, 12–1 P.M.

FOOD FOREST FORUM. Join Trees Forever staff for an exciting journey exploring our backyard forests as food banks and the endless possibilities for foraging your next meal. Director of Community Programs Jeff Jensen will get a little nutty talking about some nut and fruit options for landowners. Central Iowa Field Coordinator Gina Buelow will share some insights on the various mushrooms that can be grown at home. Eastern Iowa Field Coordinator Nick McGrath will dive into some nontraditional and fun options that you might not be aware of or are just under the radar. This will be an engaging “Forum” focused on options for your very own backyard food forest. Registration required to participate. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7578522864103803739>

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 8:30–11 A.M.

BLAIR HOUSE PRUNING WORKSHOP. 2222 1st Ave NE, Cedar Rapids. Trees Forever will host a crabapple tree pruning workshop at Blair House. We will provide instruction on what to look for in the overall shape and structure of the various crabapple trees planted on the Blair House campus. We will also discuss how to correct problems, proper pruning techniques for the trees, and sanitation of the tools, to ensure a healthy orchard. All participants are invited to join in the hands-on pruning activity. Attendees are asked to bring pruning equipment if you have them, otherwise, tools will be provided. The workshop is free, but while not required, registration is requested so we are sure we have enough tools available. <https://treesforever.org/event/blair-house/>

Plants for Pollinators: Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

This hardy yet beautiful native milkweed doesn't mind the lack of rain too much, and appreciates the sunshine. Its common name reflects its popularity with butterflies, but its nectar and pollen are also sought by many species of bees, wasps, and even the occasional hummingbird.



2023 JOHNSON COUNTY FAIR

4265 Oak Crest Hill Rd., Iowa City, IA

BUTTERFLY HOUSE

Experience butterflies in flight ...
Attract pollinators to your garden

July 23-26

Sunday—Wednesday

10:30 am—6:30 pm

MONARCH RELEASE

Wednesday, July 26, 5:00 pm

Free Admission

Donations welcome



Like Us on FACEBOOK
Johnson County Master Gardeners of Iowa



Johnson County
Agricultural Association
Johnson County Fairgrounds



Johnson County Master Gardeners 26th Annual

'Taste of the Heritage Garden' Wednesday, July 12, 2023



5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Plum Grove Historical Site
1030 Carroll Street
\$6.00 suggested donation



●
Taste 19th Century Recipes
Dane's Dairy ice cream
Visit the heirloom gardens,
Tour the 1840 home of Robert Lucas, first territorial governor
Listen to the Post Office Brass Band



Door Prizes

●
Donations help fund the gardens, Kirkwood horticulture scholarships, and 4-H Fair awards.
(Inclement weather location: Iowa State Extension Office,
Johnson County Fairgrounds, 3109 Old Hwy 218 South)

Drawings by Betty Kelly



MG Birthdays

July 2023

Anne Atkins
 Linda Diggelmann
 Karen Fosse
 Deb Gaddis
 Mike Murphy
 Laurie Roehl
 Elayne Sexsmith
 Ann Tvedte
 Amanda Vincent
 Ruth Ellen Walker
 Joel Wells



MG Birthdays

August 2023

Lindsey Anderson
 Laura Bonifazi
 Frank Gersh
 Leah Latella
 Joanne Leach
 Jenny Loeser
 Steve Lyons
 Mary Mockaitis
 Byron Vandenberg
 Miechelle Weber
 Priscilla White

2023 JCMG Steering Committee Officers

Chair..... Doug Geraets
 Vice Chair Jackie Wellborn
 Secretary Barb Robinson
 Treasurer Jean Holzhammer
 Past Chair..... Sharon Jeter



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