



Johnson County Master Gardener Thymes



June 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



Plant Sale & Flea Market 2023

BY EMIL RINDERSPACHER

The 14th annual Master Gardener Plant Sale & Flea Market is in the books. We had perfect weather, fantastic plants, customers with cash, terrific volunteers, and popcorn. More than \$17,500 was raised to support Master Gardener projects and operations including the Butterfly House at the Johnson County Fair, Kirkwood Horticulture Scholarships and 4-H awards.

Thanks to the Master Gardeners who donated plants and flea market items and to the many volunteers who collectively worked hundreds of hours potting, making labels/signs, working sale set up, moving and grooming plants, and working the sale.

We also want to extend our thanks to the estate of longtime Master Gardener Sherlyn Flesher for the donation of an extensive amount of garden items. And a big thank you to our sponsor Hills Bank and to Johnson County Extension for their generous support.



MG Steering Committee Meeting

Next meeting **Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 P.M.**; hybrid meeting at Extension Office and by Zoom. All MGs are invited to attend; [contact Shannon](#) for more details!

Thymes Deadline

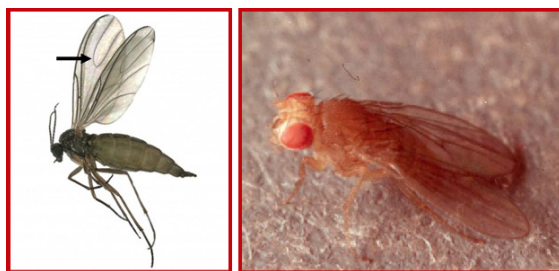
Information/articles for the *Thymes* should be sent to Melissa Serenda at jcmg.thymes@gmail.com. Please send news, volunteer opportunities, stories, pictures, gardening book reviews, etc., for the July/August issue by **Friday, June 23.**

Gnat Problems Plague Plants

BY LINDA SCHREIBER

Maybe you've noticed tiny flying bugs near your plants or circulating from room to room. Fungus gnats are annoying and can hinder plant care, especially if they've laid eggs. But the good news is they can be treated.

Step one is to determine if the insect is a fungus gnat or fruit fly. Fungus gnats are slender and have long legs, a black head and clear wings used for minimal flying. Fruit flies are more orange and have stubby legs.



*Fungus gnat, left. Fruit fly, right.
Images from University of Wisconsin Extension.*

Gnats in houseplants can be traced to three common sources: organic debris, wet soil and light. Fungus gnat reproduce by laying eggs in the first couple of inches of potting soil so their larvae can feed on organic matter. After about two weeks they begin to pupate.

Too frequent watering might be a reason you have fungus gnats. Letting the soil dry between watering helps eliminate these bugs. Fungus gnats are not only attracted to organic matter and moisture but also light—they like to circle light fixtures.

Because gnats are so small it can be hard to diagnose your plants have a gnat problem. Watch for the following:

- Has your plant stopped growing? The larvae feed on the plant roots and hinder its ability to absorb nutrients.
- Leaves begin to yellow and drop and if the damage is bad the plant may begin to wilt and may not survive.
- Tiny flies are seen around your plant.
- Overwatering results in root rot which attract gnats.

Fungus gnats will not go away on their own but there are ways to naturally remove gnats.

- Avoid watering your plants and let the soil dry out. Houseplants can survive dryness so don't be afraid to skip watering to get rid of the insects. If the plant is overly wet, take the plant out of the container and remove excess water in the bottom of the pot.
- Another option is using DIY traps that use household items or purchasing specialized traps.

Gnats are attracted to a vinegar mixture of 2-3 drops of liquid dish soap and white vinegar. Place a saucer with the mixture near the infected plants. Gnats are attracted to the solution and fall into the trap.

Purchase sticky fly traps. The yellow-colored sticky paper attracts gnats. It's easy and non-toxic. Consider purchasing an indoor fly-catching device. Gnats are attracted to the LED lights and fans which "suck" them into the trap.

Use potatoes as a trap. Cut potatoes into small pieces and place flesh down on the soil. The moisture from the potato attracts the fungus gnats. This doesn't work if the potatoes dry out so you have to keep replacing them.

Fill a spray bottle with water and dish soap. Spray the solution on the top layer of soil and repeat until the gnats are gone. Perhaps the best method repotting the plant into a clean container with fresh soil.

Resources:

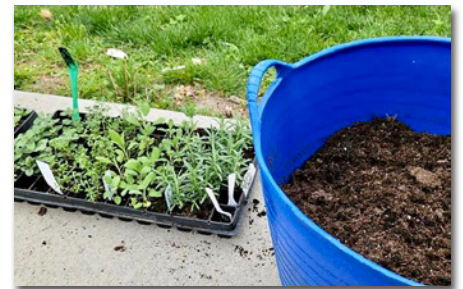
- <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/insects/fungus-gnats-as-houseplant-and-indoor-pests-5-584/>
- <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/fungus-gnat>
- <https://www.ftd.com/blog/share/how-to-get-rid-of-gnats-in-plants>
- <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/files/2014/11/Fruit-Flies-in-the-Home.pdf>
- <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/fungus-gnats-on-houseplants/>



Swisher Community Library Sponsors Container Gardening Class

BY ALICE LINHART

In what has become a May tradition in Swisher, JCMG Alice Linhart presented a hands-on class, where students provide a container and make their own container garden featuring a variety of herbs! Alice discussed the basics of container gardening before flats with a mixture of rosemary, basil, oregano, sage, thyme, lemon balm and borage were provided for each student to choose from to create their herb container garden masterpiece.



Just in time for Mother's Day the class was a big hit with the 15 people present. Thanks go to the Swisher Community Library for sponsoring this annual event.



Summertime Pests

BY LINDA SCHREIBER

Vigilance is a gardener's best friend in the summer months when it comes to protecting your garden from insect pests. Here are some tips to help you stay ahead of the pests this month:

- Dust potato plants to prevent infestations of potato beetle.
- Inspect plants for insect damage, nests of bagworms on trees, and signs of Japanese beetles (*Popillia japonica*) on gourds, pumpkins and squash.
- Cover Brassica crops with row covers to

protect from cabbage moth and flea beetle damage if they have been a problem in the past.

- Colorado potato beetle adults, eggs and larvae can be hand-picked to remove or spray with an organic insecticide if infestation is bad. Adults are yellow and black-striped beetles. The eggs are yellow



Spotted (above) and striped (below) cucumber beetles, via [University of Minnesota Extension](https://www.umn.edu/minnstateextension/)

and laid in groups on the undersides of leaves. The larvae are humpbacked and red. Look for them on the stem tips. They are present almost all season.

- Striped and spotted cucumber beetles transmit bacterial wilt to squashes and melons. Adults and eggs can be hand-picked throughout the season.
- Prevent Mexican bean beetle by covering the entire crop with floating row cover as soon as seedlings emerge.

Aphids show up on a range of host plants as soon as the warm weather arrives. Look for them in newly unfurling foliage. Sticky leaves are also a sign of their presence since they secrete a sticky gel. Aphids damage plants. Spray leaves with a strong jet of water to dislodge most of them. Insecticidal soap is an organic-approved product that offers control as long as the insects are wetted well. A second and third treatment may be needed to kill newly hatched eggs.

Squash vine borer adults are 1-inch long, orange and green day-flying moths that are emerging from the soil in June. They lay brown, button-shaped, 1/16-inch eggs at the base of the vines of summer and winter squashes. Examine stems daily and remove eggs by hand to prevent larvae from burrowing as they hatch. Use a floating row cover to prevent egg laying on plants.

Silent Auction to Benefit the Butterfly House

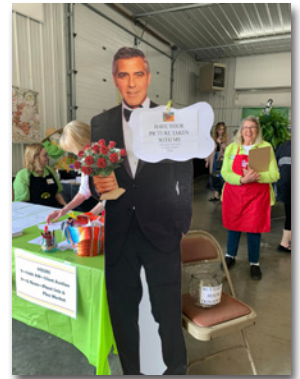
BY CAROLYN MURPHY



Thank you to the Master Gardeners who donated, placed bids, bought items, and helped at the silent auction. We have very talented people in our group. We met our goal of raising at least \$1,500 even though we had fewer donations and fewer bidders than last year.

We also had a special guest, George, who helped generate a little revenue. Local businesses were generous with donations. Thank you, Sandy Gannon, Pam Buethe, & Barb Schintler for knowing the right people at National Geographic, National Soccer Federation, and Hy-Vee Garden Center. These donations added a variety of interest.

Thank you, Pam & Frank Buethe, Sandy Gannon, Joanne Leach, Mahmooda Ahmad, and Angela and Mike Murphy for helping with the silent auction.



It's Thyme to: June Edition

BY LINDA SCHREIBER

Weeds, Water, Pests, Flowers, Veggies

There's always something to do in the garden and being outside is a big bonus! Spending time in the garden to weed and mulch will pay dividends throughout the summer and fall.

Although the Midwest has a chance of rain every week in June, we have to plan that we won't which means it's time to get the hose and sprinklers out to keep plants happy. Most plants need 1-2 inches of water a week through rainfall or irrigation. Remember infrequent deep watering is much better than frequent shallow watering. Drip irrigation in the garden will help conserve water.

Raised beds and containers dry out much faster than plants in the ground. And remember to water recently-planted trees and shrubs. They need to be watered until they become established in the landscape. Shrubs typically establish in 1-2 years and small trees in 2-3 years, larger trees can take much longer.

Let's start with mulching flower and vegetable gardens to conserve water during the high heat days.

Shrubs and trees tasks

- Prune shrubs that bloom on old wood after they are done flowering
- Prune spring flowering shrubs (those that bloom before June) after they have bloomed

to encourage new flower buds next season.

- Thin the fruit of apple, peach, plum and apricot to approximately 1 fruit every 5-6 inches.
- Take softwood cuttings of shrubs to start new plants in mid-to-late June. Shrubs that can be propagated this way are spirea, lilac and viburnum

Flower tasks

- Divide and transplant spring-flowering perennials that have finished blooming (use a shade cloth to reduce transplant shock)
- Deadhead perennials
- Sow perennials seeds directly into the ground
- Pinch the newest shoots on geranium plants to encourage fuller plants
- Feed roses as the first flower buds appear and apply fungicide to prevent powdery mildew or blackspot

Garden tasks

By June Zone 5 gardeners usually have the majority of their gardening planting done, however, it's not too late to plant cucumbers, sweet potatoes, peppers, squash, pumpkins, watermelon, okra, tomatoes, and eggplant. Adding mulch to cool-season crops will keep the roots cool and help avoid bolting. Replace cool-season crops with quick-growing crops for the summer planting season - beets, scallions, carrots, radishes, Swiss chard.

- Place row covers or netting on bushes with ripening berries to keep birds away
- Stop harvesting rhubarb and asparagus spears in June to allow the plants to build energy reserve for the next year
- Prune tomatoes to open the canopy of the plant. Remove suckers from tomato plants
- Plant sweet corn every other week until early July to extend the harvest
- Plant celery in early June (self-blanching varieties are best for home gardeners)
- Plant sweet potato slips in early June if you didn't plant them last month
- Set out Brussels sprouts transplants for a fall

Houseplant Corner: Prayer Plant

BY MELISSA SERENDA

If you are drawn to the dramatic when it comes to houseplants, prayer plant (*Maranta leuconeura*) is sure to please. There are several varieties with different variegation, from a bold red herringbone pattern to a softer variegation with pale or purplish blurred spots.

Originally hailing from the rainforest floor in South America, Marantas enjoy bright, indirect light (as from a north-facing window) and moisture: don't let



the soil get too dry between waterings (but also don't allow it to stay too wet! I tend to use terra cotta pots to combat my tendency to overwater). Marantas appreciate high humidity, but I find they are less finicky about it than their Calathea cousins, and they seem to do fine in the house with no special accommodations.

The common name "prayer plant" comes from the movement of their leaves throughout the day, or nyctinasty. Prayer plants will spread their leaves flat during the day, and fold them up vertically at night; the purpose of this movement is debated but some theories include minimizing heat loss at night or making it more difficult for animals to munch on the leaves during the nighttime hours.

harvest

- Plant okra transplants once soil temperatures are greater than 70°F.
- Plant tomato transplants early this month (check for the days to maturity and choose varieties that will produce tomatoes before your first frost).
- Plant nasturtiums for a colorful show in sunny locations with poor soil—they start blooming in about 50 days—too much water and fertilizer produce excess leaves and few flowers

- Stay out of the garden when the vegetable plant leaves are wet. Walking through a wet garden spreads disease from one plant to another

After the vegetable garden is established, water thoroughly once a week rather than giving it a light watering every day. Weekly watering helps establish a deep root system to develop that helps plants tolerate dry weather in the summer. Prevent blossom-end rot on tomatoes, peppers, squash and watermelons by maintaining uniform soil moisture by mulching and watering correctly, planting in well-drained soil and not cultivating deeper than one inch within one foot of the plant.

Hot weather causes cool-season crops like lettuce to bolt and become bitter. As soon as spring veggies are harvested, plant warm-season crops—beans, summer squash and cucumbers.

June is a great time to succession plant fast-growing crops such as radishes, beets, or carrots. Plant pumpkins now to have jack-o-lanterns for Halloween. There's still time to plant potatoes and have a late summer harvest. Amend your soil with organic matter, but don't fertilize with nitrogen past the first month.

Lawn tasks

- Apply a second application of pre-emergent herbicides in late May or early June to control annual weeds in the lawn - crabgrass, spurge
- Seed bare areas of turf with grass seed mixture; keep the area watered the first year, and limit excessive foot traffic
- Reminder - turfgrass only needs 1-1 ½ inches of irrigation per week
- Train the lawn to grow deep roots by mowing often at a high setting – 4-inches

Sources/Additional Resources

- <https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/good-growing/2021-06-16-garden-tasks-help-get-your-landscape-through-summer>
- <https://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/watering-newly-planted-trees-and-shrubs>
- <https://extension.usu.edu/yardandgarden/monthly-tips>

- <https://www.gardenersworld.com/what-to-do-now-june/>
- <https://gilmour.com/best-time-water-grass>
- <https://kelloggsgarden.com/blog/gardening/june-garden-checklist-zones-4-5/>
- <https://simplysmartgardening.com/celery-square-foot-garden/>
- <https://simplysmartgardening.com/what-to-plant-in-june/>
- <https://simplysmartgardening.com/sweet-potatoes-square-foot-garden/>
- <https://sowtrueseed.com/blogs/monthly-garden-schedule-by-zone/zone-5-monthly-garden-calendar-chores-and-planting-guide>
- <https://www.backyardgardener.com/garden-tip-articles/articles/june-gardening-to-do-list/>
- <https://extension.usu.edu/yardandgarden/research/asparagus-in-the-garden>
- <https://www.thespruce.com/what-to-do-in-the-garden-in-june-1402731>
- <https://www.thespruce.com/yearly-gardening-to-do-list-4799962>



Remembering Marilou Gay

BY LINDA SCHREIBER

On April 27, Johnson County Master Gardeners lost a dear friend, Marilou Gay, 95. A longtime gardener and Project GREEN volunteer, Marilou was a member of the inaugural Johnson County Master Gardener class.

Marilou's involvement with Project GREEN predates her Master Gardening service. Marilou was involved with the longstanding, all-volunteer nonprofit since its inception and her service included serving on its governing board. She had also been active in the Four Seasons Garden Club and the Iowa City Orchid Society.

Following her Master Gardener certification in 1982, Marilou frequently taught individual Master Gardener classes. After visiting the Iowa State Fair, Marilou had an idea for a local demonstration garden and lobbied the Johnson County Agricultural Association (JCAA) for space at the fairgrounds. The first hint of a garden was three tomato plants on the west side of Montgomery Hall, recalls Barb Schintler (JCMG 1985), who described Marilou's instrumental efforts to coordinate the campus design for Johnson County Fairgrounds. The project was titled Fairgrounds Landscape.

In 1991, Lisa McNaughton (MG 1991) requested assistance to create a Living Memorial Garden at Greenwood Manor Adult Day Care, located across the street from Marilou's Iowa City home. Volunteers installed an assortment of plants raised from seeds, a perennial garden, and a hummingbird garden. In addition to Marilou and Lisa, Khristen Lawton and Sue Johannsen (MG 1992) helped with the project.

In March 1994, 10 JCMG projects and leaders were listed in the Thymes: Greenwood Manor, Lisa MacNaughton; Butterfly Garden in the Roosevelt Ravine, Marilou Gay; Thymes, Lisa MacNaughton; Newspaper articles for the Press-Citizen, Lisa MacNaughton; Special Events/Attended Displays, Libby Stroud; Hortline, Sunday Antrim; Speakers



Bureau, Betty Kelly; Demonstration Garden at the Fairgrounds, Bob Oppliger; Personal Consultations, Barb Schintler; and Farmers Market, Barb Schintler.

Oaknoll Retirement Residence dwellers partner with Master Gardener volunteers to plant and maintain gardens surrounding the lifetime care retirement residence. Marilou Gay (MG 1982) was instrumental in getting approval for the project and served as the project coordinator that was certified in 2016. For several years, Marilou offered Oaknoll MG volunteers continuing education programs. Now, Vicki Siefert (JCMG 2013) coordinates the Oaknoll project.

Before retiring to her gardens and volunteer service, Marilou was employed by the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, now the University of Iowa Health Care.

Marilou's obituary suggested memorials to Project GREEN or the Johnson County Master Gardeners program.

WANTED:

Galium aparine

Aliases include: Cleavers, Sticky Willy, Catchweed Bedstraw



This gangly garden gangster is easy to identify by its tiny white flowers, whorled leaves and sticky stems (and leaves, and fruits...). Hoe or hand-pull to control, being careful to get all the shallow roots—preferably early enough in the season that it hasn't set seeds yet.



Project Updates

1876 Coralville Schoolhouse

KAREN MARTINEK, COORDINATOR

We continue to make great progress at the 1876 Schoolhouse with the help of the Coralville Parks and Recreation Department and our volunteers. The city mowed an area along the back of the building and brought in two loads of mulch to help keep the weeds down and the new plants moist. We planted 22 plants graciously donated by our members and left over at the plant sale. We are thrilled to have them.

The warm weather has the thistles popping up throughout the gardens again, so we plan a workday on Friday, June 2, from 9 to 11 A.M. to try to keep up with these aggressive and virulent weeds. We welcome all new additions to our work crew. If a different day works better for you, please let us know. The gardens are looking beautiful, and it is a beautiful and peaceful work environment. Come join us!



Demonstration Garden

CHRIS SEDREL AND LAURIE ROEHL, COORDINATORS

A lot has happened in a month but it hasn't been rain! We have most of the Demonstration Garden planted, but we are watering most days because we have seeds we would like to germinate soon.

Our compost pile has gotten up to 140 degrees while soil temperatures are at 70 degrees. We have planted vegetables and flowers at the garden and the Hugelkultur bed is progressing. We just got a 100-foot lightweight hose that I hope will please our watering crew. It is much easier to move around and winds up like a dream.

Downtown City Gardens

LINDA SCHREIBER, COORDINATOR

Volunteers planted more than 200 native perennials in the south garden of the Capital Street Parking Garage. Perennials include big bluestem, switchgrass, amsonia and heliopsis. The new plants complement big patches of *Buddleia davidii* (butterfly bush) and *Campanula rapunculoides* (bellflower). The early heat stifled peony blooms. The larkspur is ready to bloom.

After planting the south side, Master Gardeners directed attention to the west side gardens and the Secret Garden on the lower level of the Dubuque Street Parking Garage—weeding and planting heliopsis and sunflowers. Our hardy team also found time to assist Mercy Iowa City in maintaining its hosta bed located on the north side of the hospital.



Fairgrounds Beautification

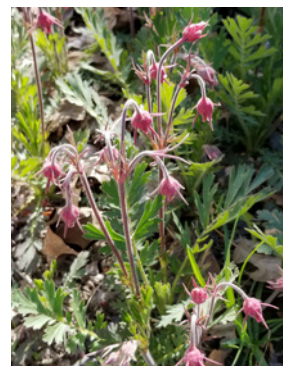
CHRIS SEDREL AND LAURIE ROEHL, COORDINATORS

The Fairgrounds Beautification is getting more active as we have planted several beds with either seeds or plants. "Horse Hill" looks beautiful right now with irises in full bloom. We have planted in front of the flagpole at the entrance to the fairgrounds as well as along the east side of Montgomery Hall. We've also planted gaura and dianthus in the large pot over by the shop area, and planted in three small water tanks on the fairgrounds. Watering has become an issue and we are working on using our water tank we have with a small motor on it.

Fairgrounds Rain Garden

LAVON YEGGY AND MEGAN GARRELS, COORDINATORS

We finished our spring cleanup and dug up and donated a few plants. There have been multiple plants blooming but most noticeable was Prairie Smoke (see photo). There are only a few iris left after ground squirrels and other critters dug up and devoured dozens of plants, so we want to plant more iris. We received free wildflower seeds at the Native Plant Symposium and are starting those among all the milkweed plants. We will also plant more annuals for pollinators. Work sessions are Thursdays at 5 P.M.



Hospice Gardens

MELANIE HAUPERT, COORDINATOR

The group that works at the Iowa City Hospice Gardens met in April to clean up the site before the Iowa City Hospice Walk for Dignity. Since then, a few of us have tended the site while others worked on the JCMG Plant Sale.

As the weather warms, weeds will appear and we'll continue working to keep the site tidy. This was our first year to have a pretty bloom from our new Florida dogwoods. They are growing enough to give some of our hostas welcome shade. Our daffodils and bluebells will soon be dying back to leave room for the hostas, which took a big jump in growth this year. I am attributing the growth to the fact that we began watering more last year. You will find us at Willow Creek Park from 9 to 10 A.M. most Thursday mornings.



Plum Grove Gardens

DARLENE CLAUSEN, CAROLYN MURPHY, AND LAVON YEGGY, COORDINATORS

Plum Grove opened to the public for the season on Memorial Day weekend. The gardens are looking good as more plants appear and bloom.

In Friendly's garden more vegetables are being planted. Peas and beans are up and starting to climb their supports. More volunteers are needed to help with herbs and vegetables Wednesdays at 5:30 P.M. and Saturday at 9:30 A.M.

This week we started repairs on the fence at the wildflower garden. It's an old split rail fence that was damaged by the derecho. There are many plants starting to bloom including blue wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*), blue flag iris, and columbine.



Blue wild indigo



Columbine

Grandma's Flower Garden group has been busy planting and watering to be ready for opening day.

****Watch for an email about our planning meeting for the Taste of Heritage Gardens at Plum Grove. We will need help with planning the menu, cooks, setting up for the event, and other activities. The tasting party is July 12 and many volunteers are needed for this fun annual event.**

Yard and Garden Information

JACKIE WELLBORN AND KAY MOHLING, COORDINATORS

Yard and Garden Information was represented at the JCMG Plant Sale & Flea Market. Li-Hsien Lin, Elayne Sexsmith, Kay Mohling provided handouts and answered questions during the event. It was a fun event with lots of great gardening conversations. Jackie Wellborn, co-coordinator, took charge of the houseplant table during the Plant Sale. The plants were marked to sell and at the end we had only a few left. People expressed delight with their purchases.



Saturday, June 3, Yard and Garden Information volunteers will have a display at the Container Gardening Event at the Coralville Community Food Pantry.



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, June 11, 2:30 to 4:00 P.M.

BUILD YOUR OWN BAT HOUSE. Join the effort to protect our fluttering, pollinating friends by building a beautiful bat house for them. South Shelter at Hickory Hill Park, 1439 E Bloomington St, Iowa City.

Wednesday, Jun 21, 6:00 to 7:30 P.M.

EARLY SUMMER FORAGE. Practice finding yummy greens and berries through playful activities. Willow Creek Park, 1117 Teg Dr, Iowa City.



Bur Oak Land Trust

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

Saturday, June 10, 5 to 7 P.M.

BELGUM GROOVE. 3261 500th St. SW, Iowa City. Get your groove on at Belgum Groove! Bur Oak Land Trust's new spin on Music on the Prairie. Come on out for an afternoon hike before local musicians Brian Johannesen and Dave Helmer take the stage. Marco's Grilled Cheese food truck and a water station will be open, and all attendees will get a special treat to mark 45 years of Bur Oak Land Trust. Tickets are \$20 per vehicle and can be purchased online or at the gate. If you ride a bike to Belgum Grove, you get in for free! Tickets and more information is available at buroaklandtrust.org/events. Come early at 4 P.M. for a guided hike of Belgum Grove before the music begins. Belgum Grove has walking trails, beautiful prairie, and a large pond. The event is open to the community, family-friendly, and bike-friendly.



Eastern Iowa Bird Watchers/IC Birds

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

Sunday, June 11, 6:30 A.M. to Noon.

FIELD TRIP: INDIANGRASS HILLS. Indiangrass Hills in Iowa County for breeding grassland birds. Leader Mark Brown will guide us through this 640-acre restored prairie. Expect to see Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Sedge Wren, Orchard Oriole, Bobolink, and more. There will be extensive walking on mowed grass paths which may be wet. Don't forget bug spray. Meet at 6:30 A.M. at Kohl's parking lot, 2795 Commerce Dr., Coralville, or at 7:15 A.M. at Indiangrass Hills parking lot, 4549 I Ave, Williamsburg. Return time is around noon.

Iowa State Extension

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

Tuesday, June 27, 2 to 6 P.M.

MASTER GARDENER LOCAL OUTREACH. Pleasant Valley Greenhouse, 39030 150th St, South English. Local outreach events planned and delivered by county extension Master Gardener coordinators and volunteers. Contact: Andy Miller, 319-653-4811.



Johnson County Conservation

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

For all Johnson County Conservation events: registration closes 24 hours in advance. If you are fully registered, you can expect to receive an email "receipt" from MyCountyParks after registration. You will also receive an email from the leading naturalist a couple days in advance of the program. If you do not receive these emails, you may not be registered; call 319-645-1011 for assistance in this case.

Wednesday, June 21, 10 to 11:30 A.M.

NATURE BUDS: WETLANDS! Conservation Education Center - F.W. Kent Park, 2048 HWY 6 NW, Oxford. Nature Buds is a program for kids ages 2-5. It involves hands on STEM and arts stations around a nature topic. This month, we'll learn all about wetlands! Be prepared to get muddy and maybe wet!

Thursday, June 22, 10 to 11:30 A.M.

JUNIOR EXPLORERS: WETLANDS! Conservation Education Center - F.W. Kent Park, 2048 HWY 6 NW, Oxford. Junior Explorers is a program for kids ages K-2nd grade. It involves hands on STEM and arts stations around a nature topic. This month, we'll learn all about wetlands! Be prepared to get muddy and maybe wet!



Johnson County-ISU Extension

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

No events listed this month.



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>

OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND July 8-9, 2023: WANTED: YOUR GARDEN. Gardeners all over Iowa City and Coralville are opening their gardens, big and small, to inspire new gardeners and to help raise money for Project GREEN's mission of making Johnson County more beautiful. If you'd like to open your garden, please fill out the questionnaire by June 15, 2023, in order to be included in the Open Gardens Map. Learn more at <https://projectgreen.org/gardens-wanted/>.



Seed Savers Exchange

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

Next month: Friday and Saturday, July 21–22

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE “SEED THE FUTURE: GROW SOMETHING GOOD.”.

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. <https://registration.socio.events/e/2023sseconference>



Trees Forever

<https://treesforever.org/events>

Thursday, June 29, 12 to 1 P.M.

WEBINAR: TREE-MENDOUS GROWTH: IOWA FOREST RX. Iowa's forests and woodlands face several health challenges; from invasive species like Oriental Bittersweet and Emerald Ash Borer to the more recent Oak Dying, times are tough for Iowa's woodlands. Join Iowa DNR Forestry Health Specialist Tivon Feeley to learn about the various pest and disease threats to our woodlands and what is being done to monitor and manage these threats. Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/391116508550834779>

Plant Sale & Flea Market



See all photos at <https://www.facebook.com/media/set?vanity=JCMG.Iowa&set=a.744687250785727>



MG Birthdays

June 2023

Jane Balvanz
Pamela Buethe
Katy Carlson
Megan Garrels
Mary Hensley
Patricia Quiles
Melissa Serenda
Vicki Siefers
Lori Stanley



*Gardening humor submitted by
JCMG Joel Wells*

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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*Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
Johnson County
Attn: Master Gardener Newsletter
3109 Old Highway 218 S.
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