



# Johnson County Master Gardener Thymes



May 2023

## Project Coordinators

*Click on a name to email the listed coordinator:*

### 1876 Coralville Schoolhouse

Karen Martinek

### Buckets of Flowers & Scarecrow Contest

Lavon Yeggy

### 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

### Speakers Bureau

Megan Garrels

### Thymes Newsletter

Melissa Serenda, Doug Geraets

### Yard & Garden Info

Jackie Wellborn, Kay Mohling



## Weber Elementary Earth Day Fun Fest

BY CAROLYN MURPHY

It was fun interacting with Weber Elementary students on Tuesday, April 18, at the annual Earth Week Fun Fest. We provided several pollinator games such as “Which comes first—the butterfly or the egg?” and “Can you name five pollinators that begin with the letter “B”?”

Other activities included butterfly coloring sheets, gardening & bug crossword puzzles, bookmarks, stickers, and making milkweed & wildflower seed balls.

Our displays included educational materials on monarchs and other pollinators, plus ISU yard & gardening brochures.

Thank you, Sandy Gannon, Angela Murphy, Megan Garrels. Lavon Yeggy, Mahmooda Ahmad, Mary Mascher, Jackie Wellborn, and Mike Murphy for helping with this event.



## MG Steering Committee Meeting

Next meeting **Wednesday, May 10, 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](mailto:jcmg.thymes@gmail.com). Please send news, volunteer opportunities, stories, pictures, gardening book reviews, etc., for the May issue by **Friday, May 26**.

BY DOUG GERAETS

In March and April there is snow on the ground ... then there isn't ... there is snow on the ground ... then there isn't and so on and so forth. March and April offer widely varying weather, windy days, and a sun that is steadily warming. March is the month to plant seeds indoors for transplants for the garden. If you haven't already done so you're almost too late!

My shallots and garlic planted in the fall are up and growing fast and I've moved the mulch away from the plants. This will allow the soil to warm faster and the plants to "take off" on their growth trajectory.

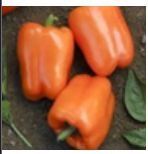



Continuing from the March issue of [Musings on the Garden](#) I wanted to cover peppers we grow in our garden. I have fewer years of experience with peppers relative to tomatoes as I don't remember them being a big part of our garden and diet growing up in SE South Dakota. I've really started appreciating them in the last 20 to 30 years and over that time we've settled upon the ones I've included in the table below. Peppers need a fairly long growing season so in Iowa it is necessary to start them indoors for transplanting outside in May. Peppers DO NOT like cold, damp weather so it is an advantage to wait before planting outside until well into May when the nighttime temperatures are consistently above 55 degrees F.

As you can see in the accompanying table, our pepper growing is divided into bell peppers, poblano-types, cayenne-type, and both serranos and jalapeños. These may vary a bit from year-to-year as we may experiment and try something new. The last couple years we've grown an Italian pepperoncini pepper but I don't think we will this year and it's not included in the table.






Peppers do best in well-draining loamy soil and definitely need full-sun. They aren't bothered by many pests although an occasional wondering animal (deer or raccoon) may nibble on them/break stems. I mulch around the plants to keep down weeds, retain moisture and allow picking of the peppers even with muddy conditions. 🌶️

## What is the Scoville Scale?

The **Scoville Scale** measures the heat or spiciness of a pepper based on its capsaicin content, a chemical responsible for the "hot" sensation in your mouth. The higher the number, the hotter the pepper. Mild peppers may rate around 1,000 SHUs (Scoville Heat Units), while ghost peppers may rate up to one million SHUs. Learn more at <https://www.nist.gov/how-do-you-measure-it/how-do-you-measure-heat-pepper>

Doug's Favorite Pepper Varieties & Characteristics		
Variety		Characteristics
Bell Pepper		
	<b>Orange Blaze</b>	 An All-American Selections winner that matures early (68 days), is prolific and has sweet flavor. Starts out green but matures to beautiful orange color. Size is smaller for a bell (3-4 inches long, 1 1/2 inches wide, and with 2-3 lobes).
	<b>Big Bertha</b>	One of the largest peppers known (7 inches long, 3 1/2 inches across and mostly 4-lobed). As fruit matures turns from deep green to red. WARNING: branches of plant may need support as weight of peppers may break them!
Poblano-type		
	<b>Ancho Gigantea</b>	Poblano pepper with thick walls that grows to 3 inches long and about 2 1/4 inches wide. Fruits mature from deep green to red. Can be eaten fresh, roasted or dried. Mildly spicy with Scoville ~2,000.

## Doug's Favorite Pepper Varieties & Characteristics

Variety		Characteristics
<b>Poblano-type (continued)</b>		
	<b>Anaheim</b>	Classic chili pepper that grows 7-8 inches long and about 2 inches wide with thick walls. Plants grow 28-34 inches tall and in my experience are extremely prolific. Scoville of 500-2,500.
<b>Cayenne-type</b>		
	<b>Cayenne, long thin</b>	Long, slender, slightly wrinkled hot pepper that turns from green to red when ripening. Scoville of ~30,000-50,000. Excellent for use in chili or salsas. Plants grow 18 to 24 inches tall and are prolific producers.
	<b>Hot Portugal</b>	A cayenne-type pepper that is sweet and spicy. Scoville range is 5,000 to 30,000. Long with thin flesh and ripens quickly in shorter growing seasons. Best when allowed to ripen red on the plant. These peppers are great fresh: sautéed in soups, stews, and added to stir fries for some heat. Dried and crushed, these peppers make some of the best red chili flakes around.
<b>Serrano &amp; Jalapeño</b>		
	<b>Serrano type</b>	Named after a mountainous region in Mexico where this pepper originated. Slightly smaller than jalapeño pepper. Scoville ranges from 5,000 to 23,000. Green when growing but mature usually to bright red. Used in chili, soups, stir fry, and salsas. Plants usually quite prolific.
	<b>Jalapeño</b>	Slightly larger than serrano peppers. Classic pepper for stuffing and roasting (or the classic jalapeño wrappers). Scoville 2,000 to 8,000. Commonly picked and used while green, it can be left on the plant to ripen and turn red, orange, or yellow. It is wider and generally milder than the similar Serrano pepper.



### Linda Schreiber appointed to IAMG Advisory Committee

Lifetime Master Gardener Linda Schreiber was appointed to serve a three-year term ending in 2025 to the Iowa Master Gardener Advisory Committee. The committee works to unify, strengthen and support the Iowa Master Gardener program. Linda represents the 20-county portion of southeast Iowa.

Congratulations Linda!



## Plant Sale & Flea Market Preparations in Full Swing

BY EMIL RINDERSPACHER

Preparations are in full swing for the 14th annual Master Gardener Plant Sale & Flea Market on Saturday, May 20. The sale will take place from 9 A.M. to noon in Buildings B and C at the Johnson County Fairgrounds.

Help spread the word about the sale by telling your friends, family members, neighbors, colleagues and share the event on Facebook. If you aren't working the sale, stop by and do some plant shopping!

**We still need donations—perennials, veggies, annuals, herbs, houseplants, bulbs, trees, shrubs, flea market and gift table items.** We could also use more volunteers for sale set up and for the sale itself. Email me if you can help.

### Perennials

Bring your nearly bare-root plants to one of the potting events at the Heritage Barn (near the demo garden) where MG will pot up your plants. Here are the remaining potting dates/times:

- May 3 (Wednesday) from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.
- May 4 (Thursday) from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.
- May 6 (Saturday) from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

### Veggies, Annuals, Houseplants, Tender Perennials

If you have plants other than perennials to donate, let Darlene Clausen know at [clausendarlene@gmail.com](mailto:clausendarlene@gmail.com) so she can prepare the plant labels. You can drop off nonperennial donations on Thursday, May 18 (9 A.M. to 6 P.M.) and Friday, May 19 (9 A.M. to 4 P.M.) at the south entrance to Building C.

### Trees and Shrubs Gift Table Items

If you have trees and/or shrubs or gift table items to donate, let Chris Sedrel know at [oscarsgram@aol.com](mailto:oscarsgram@aol.com). You can drop off woody plant donations on Thursday, May 18 (9 A.M. to 6 P.M.) and Friday, May 19 (9 A.M. to noon) at the south entrance to Building C. Trees and shrubs must be dropped off before noon on Friday, May 19, so they can be inspected by the state.

## Flea Market Items

We will accept Flea Market items from Master Gardeners and the general public. All items must be clean and in working order. No chemicals accepted. Questions to Linda Schreiber at [lschreiber@gmail.com](mailto:lschreiber@gmail.com). You can drop off Flea Market donations on Thursday, May 18 (9 A.M. to 6 P.M.) and Friday, May 19 (9 A.M. to 4 P.M.) at the south entrance to Building C.

If you have any questions call me at 319-331-7451 or email me at [emil-rinderspacher@uiowa.edu](mailto:emil-rinderspacher@uiowa.edu).

## Love gardening but have allergies?

BY LINDA SCHREIBER

Love gardening but have allergies? If you need help—it's all about the timing.

A new study provides a baseline pollen count throughout the day that is a useful tool for those who monitor allergens and air quality for health purposes. Pollen in the air is the lowest between 4 A.M. and noon.



*Pollen from trees, like this river birch, can aggravate springtime allergies.*

Pollen can cause dry eyes, a runny nose, sneezing, swelling and other symptoms that make outdoor activities unpleasant for the 50 million Americans who suffer seasonal allergies, and

allergies can make breathing difficult for those who have asthma.

The American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology researchers presented a study at its Annual Scientific Meeting to guide sufferers with tips to avoid pollen. “People who have pollen allergies can generally benefit from knowing at what times of day pollen counts are highest,” says allergist and lead study author Stanley Fineman in a statement.

Flowering plants, trees, grasses and weeds typically produced pollen during warmer months. The Centers for Disease Control notes climate changes may lead to shifts in temperatures and precipitation patterns which may prolong pollen seasons.

#### Resources:

- <https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/969545>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/allergen.htm>
- <https://www.yalemedicine.org/conditions/seasonal-allergies>
- <https://nicenews.com/health-and-wellness/how-avoid-high-pollen-levels-study/>

## May It's Thyme to ...

BY LINDA SCHREIBER

Never mind the 70-degree days Iowans experienced in early April, May signals true spring has arrived with a burst of flowering trees and fragrant shrubs. Gardeners can take advantage of longer days to get yard and garden tasks done to enjoy the landscape and garden in the coming months.

May is the time to get serious about gardening.

When the daffodils and tulips are done blooming you can remove the spent blooms but leave the foliage. Allowing the stems to wither attached to the bulbs sends energy into growing new bulbs as the leaves die off.

Add plant support for emerging peonies, delphiniums and other tall, floppy plants before the plants reach maximum growth. The growing plants will hide the supports and plants won't be damaged adding supports after they reach their full height or during Iowa's storms.

Watering is important for newly-seeded lawn areas, new flowers, trees, shrubs, containers and hanging baskets. If Mother Nature doesn't provide a good shower be prepared to water. Established plantings and lawns need watering every 7 to 10 days.

#### What to Plant

1. Warm temperatures in early May tempt gardeners to get planting. But check weather forecasts first because warm-season plants like petunias, begonias, coleus, and inpatients can be damaged by freezing temperatures and you may need to cover your plants if temperatures drop. Cool-season flowers and vegetables such as snapdragons, alyssum, broccoli and cauliflower are cold-hardy. They can be planted in mid-to-late April.
2. Plant shrub roses after Mother's Day in an area with good topsoil amended with peat moss or compost.
3. By early to mid-May after danger of last frost has passed and when the soil is warm, the rest of the garden can be planted, and transplants (tomatoes, cabbages, broccoli) can be added to the garden after “hardening off” the plants. (See the [April Thymes](#) for information about this process.) Plant tomatoes in a different spot every other year to reduce fungus disease problems.
4. May is an excellent time to plant a shade tree or flowering tree.



*Add supports for emerging delphiniums, peonies, and other tall plants.*

#### Weekly Tips

**Week 1** – If you didn't aerate in April, now is the time to get that done. Aeration insures water and air are readily available to the grass plants' roots. It's also time to mow the lawn if you haven't already done so. Mow your lawn any time the grass is 1½ times the normal height. The recommended mowing height is 3½ to 4 inches. That would mean you wouldn't want your grass to get taller/longer

than 5¼ inches in height. A taller lawn helps eliminate weeds and disease and promotes deeper roots. Grass clippings are good fertilizer for the lawn. Frequent mowing eliminates the need to bag or rake.

**Week 2** – Fertilize flowers and roses with a complete fertilizer that is low in nitrogen. After the last frost, add annuals to fill in gaps along garden borders for color throughout the summer and fall.

**Week 3** – Fill containers with potting soil and create attractive arrangements using tall plants for vertical lines (thriller); larger, brightly colored flowers for focal points (filler); and a variety of complementary flower and foliage colors like attractive vining plants like sweet potato ivy or creeping jenny cascading over the edge of containers (spiller) creates a beautiful focal point.

**Week 4** – Prune spring flowering shrubs that have finished blooming. Older branches may be pruned to the ground; longer branches

shortened, and any crossing and broken branches removed. Spent lilac flowers can be removed but it isn't essential.

*Plant something beautiful!*

#### Resources:

- <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/spring-garden-tasks>
- <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/mowing-or-grasscycling-lawns>
- <https://www.thespruce.com/mulch-grass-clippings-back-into-lawn-2152861>
- <https://simplysmartgardening.com/what-to-plant-in-may/>
- <https://www.gardendesign.com/roses/care.html>
- <https://extension.illinois.edu/news-releases/tips-starting-your-spring-garden-strong>
- <https://www.gardenersworld.com/what-to-do-now-may/>



## JCMGs Help South District "Team Up to Clean Up"

**BY LINDA SCHREIBER**

It was a chilly day but there was lots of help as. JCMG helped the South District Neighborhood Association with its annual Team Up to Clean Up activity.

Student-athletes from the University of Iowa Track & Field teams helped clean and plant perennials in the gardens along Broadway Street and the Neighborhood Center.



*UI team members are pictured with South District Executive Director Angie Jordan (lower left).*



## JCMGs Host Compost Class at Swisher Library

BY ALICE LINHART

For Earth Day 2023, some Swisher residents celebrated by learning how to sequester carbon, reduce landfill waste and turn kitchen scraps into garden gold by creating their own compost.

JCMG Alice Linhart held a well-attended Compost Class at the Swisher Community Library on Earth Day. Composting is a great way to be kind to the earth! Vermicomposting or composting with worms, was also discussed, and “red wiggler” worms were available for the attendees to see. There were a lot of great questions and discussions.

Thanks to Laura and Leah, Librarians at the Swisher Community Library, for hosting this fun and timely event!



*JCMG Alice Linhart and Leah Ritter, Swisher Adult Program Librarian*



*Kids waiting their turns to hold the red wiggler composting worms.*



*Kids checking out the red wiggler composting worms.*





# Project Updates

## 1876 Coralville Schoolhouse

### KAREN MARTINEK, COORDINATOR

We are excited to take a fresh look at the Schoolhouse Gardens. With the help of the Coralville Parks Department, we have cut back all plants in the gardens and raked leaves and debris during a few short clean up sessions. With the late freezes, snow, rain, and wind (this is Iowa) we have been delayed in our progress.

We would like to add a few plantings to the existing perennials in the West Garden and around the foundation. The Coralville Parks recommend that we stay with the native plant theme. I am anxious to get ideas from anyone involved or acquainted with this project.

I have been in contact with Cindy Parsons, the inaugural project coordinator, as well as with our contact person at the Coralville Parks Department. They have made themselves available to answer questions and to assist us in our efforts. We have a large old trellis in the front of the Schoolhouse in need of repair. The Park Department will take a look and repair if possible and also provide us with mulch.

We have a workday scheduled and plan another one for the first weekend in May, either on Friday or Saturday mornings or both, if schedules require two workdays. Those early weeds, thistles and dandelions, are popping through and it would be best to suppress their efforts by applying at least a light layer of mulch in the next couple weeks. If anyone is interested in joining in, please contact me at [karengfwc@gmail.com](mailto:karengfwc@gmail.com) for the work times.

## Butterfly House at Fairgrounds

### CAROLYN MURPHY AND MIKE MURPHY, COORDINATORS

The Butterfly House coordinators have formed a team and are busy with their main fundraiser, the silent auction, May 20, with the Plant Sale & Flea Market. Please consider donating, we are accepting items now. The auction proceeds are important to fund the cost of butterflies and run the event. Give us a call: Carolyn or Mike Murphy at 319-541-7079 or email [candmmurphy@aol.com](mailto:candmmurphy@aol.com).

## Downtown City Gardens

### LINDA SCHREIBER, COORDINATOR

Master Gardener volunteers turned out to answer a call from Mercy Iowa City requesting assistance pruning roses in the gardens along Market Street.

Work now shifts to the gardens in Iowa City's two oldest parking garages. MG will trim grasses and butterfly bushes and remove daylilies in preparation to continue planting native perennials.





## Demonstration Garden

### CHRIS SEDREL AND LAURIE ROEHL, COORDINATORS

The Demonstration Garden is busy; we have planted raspberries, potatoes, onions, beets and radishes in the Hügelkultur, square foot and main gardening areas. We have an onion plant vs. onion set contest going on. We are very busy planning learning projects and having FUN!.

## Ecumenical Towers

### MICHAEL HESSELTINE AND JOHN WEEG, COORDINATORS

Ecumenical Towers is very much alive. There is a carpet of yellow wild tulips across the front bed with a few tulips mixed in.

We did a general cleanup and added in some coneflowers and pasque flowers (thanks to Laurie Roehl). Everything got a blanket of mulch.

Lastly we added the first version of our water feature (thanks to Ann Ruppencamp for the rocks). I am sure we will modify and add on—but this will show that it all works. We will tinker with that a little and then demonstrate for the residents.

See you next month!



## Fairgrounds Beautification

### CHRIS SEDREL AND LAURIE ROEHL, COORDINATORS

We are happy to say we have gotten almost all of the Fairground garden beds cleaned off and we are planning planting for the summer. Horse Hill is looking wonderful. We are also happy to report that we have had compliments from fair board members on how great the clean-up looks.

## Yard and Garden Information

### JACKIE WELLBORN AND KAY MOHLING, COORDINATORS

The Yard & Garden Information folks attended one event at Weber Elementary School, a fair with a number of vendors during Earth Week. We joined Carolyn Murphy and her crew (see related article) to make seed balls and distribute information about pollinators along with some gardening information on various topics. Mary Mascher joined Jackie as a volunteer at the Garden Information table.

## Plum Grove Gardens

### DARLENE CLAUSEN, CAROLYN MURPHY, AND LAVON YEGGY, COORDINATORS

The Plum Grove Historical Site, 1030 Carroll St., Iowa City, hasn't opened yet but clean up and planting has begun. A small but mighty crew began work on April 15 with the annual spring cleanup. For those interested in volunteering, we work Saturday mornings from 9:30 A.M. to noon (or as long as we want to work) through the end of September unless it is raining or SNOWING(!).

We also meet on Wednesday afternoons from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M. for those who work during the day. Once summer comes we may adjust the work time from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. to avoid the heat of the day.

Plum Grove opens for the season on Memorial Day weekend. We try to have someone as a tour guide on Sunday afternoons throughout the season. We maintain a vegetable garden, an heirloom flower garden, and wildflower native plant gardens.

If you have questions, please contact Plum Grove Garden coordinators:

- Darlene Clausen at 319-400-5299 or [clausendarlene7@gmail.com](mailto:clausendarlene7@gmail.com)
- Carolyn Murphy at 319-541-7079 or [candmmurphy@aol.com](mailto:candmmurphy@aol.com)
- Lavon Yeggy at 319-330-0952 or [lavon.yeggy@outlook.com](mailto:lavon.yeggy@outlook.com)



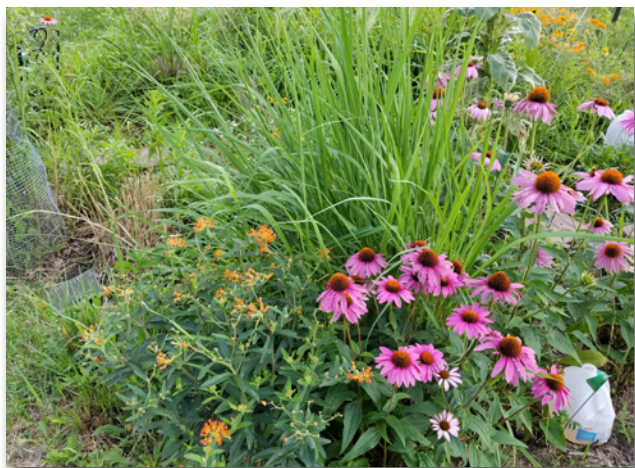
*Front row: Angela Murphy, Carolyn Murphy, Megan Garrels, Marge Jensen, Darlene Clausen. Back row: Ramona McGurk, Lavon Yeggy. (Not pictured: Barb Robinson, Pat Quiles, Chris Sedrel)*

## Fairgrounds Rain Garden

### LAVON YEGGY AND MEGAN GARRELS, COORDINATORS

For this project, we maintain the rain garden, replace and add new perennials, and plant annuals to attract butterflies. We will meet on Thursdays, from 4:30 to 6:30 P.M., until we are ready to quit for the day. Our goal is to plant for pollinators using natives.

We also monitor intake areas to enhance proper rainwater flow, as this garden receives the rain water from Montgomery Hall. This year we want to add pathways and replace plants destroyed by critters. We can meet Monday mornings if that works better for you; please let us know.







## MG Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

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

**May 2023**



### 100 Grannies

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

No events listed this month.



### Backyard Abundance

<http://backyardabundance.org/events>

**Saturday, May 6, 9 to 11 A.M.**

RAINBOW HOMESTEAD PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER. 431 Elmridge Ave, Iowa City, IA. Purchase local, organic, happy plants for a good cause.

**Wednesday, May 10, 6 to 7:30 P.M.**

MEET NEW EDIBLE FRIENDS. McPherson Park, 1858 7th Ave Ct, Iowa City. Let's make finding wild food easier.



### Bur Oak Land Trust

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

**Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.**

CHAINSAW ACADEMY FOR WOMEN. \$50/person. This level 1, two-day course is a mix of in-class instruction and field skill-building, and includes the following topics: chainsaw safety, required personal protective equipment, saw maintenance, starting a saw, basic limbing, bucking, and swamping. Participants must attend both days to complete the course. **Reservations closed**—to join the waiting list, email [sarah@buroaklandtrust.org](mailto:sarah@buroaklandtrust.org).



### Eastern Iowa Bird Watchers/IC Birds

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

**Weekdays, Monday-Friday, April 26 – May 26, 6:30 to 8:00 A.M.**

HICKORY HILL PARK WARBLER WALKS. Hickory Hill Park, 1439 E Bloomington St, Iowa City. Start your weekdays watching warblers and other spring migrants in the park with our rotating crew of expert leaders. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Conklin Lane, off N. Dodge St.



*Palm Warbler, via [Sycamore Greenway Friends](#)*



## Iowa State Extension

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

### **Saturday, May 6, 9 to 11:30 A.M.**

MUSCATINE PLANT SALE. Discovery Park Pavilion, Muscatine, IA. Contact: Lauren Nerad, [lnerad@iastate.edu](mailto:lnerad@iastate.edu)

### **Saturday, May 20, 8 to 11:30 A.M.**

WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE. Washington County Fair Grounds Round Barn, 2223 250th St, Washington, IA.



## Johnson County Conservation

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

### **Monday-Saturday, May 1 – 6**

INSECT WEEK. Conservation Education Center, Kent Park, 2048 Hwy 6 NW, Oxford. Come out each day to explore self-guided insects activities, including insect drawing, how to build an insect, insect adoption opportunities, insect stories on the storybook rail, and scavenger hunts. Be sure to check out the finale of this insect week by attending the Saturday ISU Insect Zoo event. Registration closes 24 hours in advance. If you are fully registered, you can expect to receive an email "receipt" from MyCountyParks after registration. If you do not receive this email, you may not be registered; call 319-645-1011 for assistance in this case.

### **Saturday, May 6, 10 A.M. to Noon.**

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY INSECT ZOO. Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park, 2048 Hwy 6 NW, Oxford. Join us in welcoming the ISU Insect Zoo to Kent Park. If you are curious to learn more about our six-legged friends this is the event for you. To learn more about the ISU Insect Zoo ahead of your visit be sure to check out their web page here: <https://www.ent.iastate.edu/insectzoo/>. Consider packing a picnic lunch to enjoy after!

### **Friday, May 12, 2023, 4:30 P.M.**

SPRING EPHEMERAL HIKE. Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St. NE, Solon. Hike through the Cangleska Wakan forests and learn about the spring wildflowers along the way! A naturalist will provide interesting details for many of the spring blooms, and will help provide identification tips for most of the flowers we'll see. Open to people of all ages. This hike is not open to dogs. 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.

### **Saturday, May 20, 9 A.M. to Noon.**

SPRING MIGRATION PUBLIC BIRD BANDING. F.W. Kent Park, Conservation Education Center, 2048 Hwy 6 NW, Oxford. Join federally permitted bird banders to learn all about how we learn the ways of our avian friends. See birds like never before in close view and learn about scientific efforts dedicated to bird conservation. Registration closes 24 hours in advance. If you are fully registered, you can expect to receive an email "receipt" from MyCountyParks after registration. If you do not receive this email, you may not be registered; call 319-645-1011 for assistance.



## 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/>

**Friday, May 12, 4 to 7 P.M. and Saturday, May 13, 8 A.M. to noon.**

LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING PLANT SALE. Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center, 1400 N 10th Street, Marion, IA. Contact Info: Sara-Anne Severson, [sakettel@iastate.edu](mailto:sakettel@iastate.edu)



## 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>

**Friday–Saturday, May 12–13, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.**

HEIRLOOM PLANT SALE. The annual plant sale will be held May 12-13, 2023, at the Lillian Goldman Visitor Center. Seed Savers Exchange, Decorah, Iowa. Plant list can be found at <https://www.seedsavers.org/events>.



## Trees Forever

<https://treesforever.org/events>

**Wednesday, May 10, 12 to 1:30 P.M.**

SPRING EPHEMERALS WEBINAR. Join Trees Forever Field Coordinator Emily Ehley on a virtual walk in the woods identifying and discussing spring ephemerals. This is the first of our Stewards of the Beautiful Land webinars taking place in summer and fall of 2023. <https://treesforever.org/event/spring-ephemerals-webinar/>

## No Mow May? A Little Mow May?

Looking out for our pollinator friends is important, especially in these early weeks of spring when flowers can be scarce. Check out these tips from ISU for how to participate without running afoul of local weed ordinances (and your neighbors' goodwill):

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/tips-participating-no-mow-may>

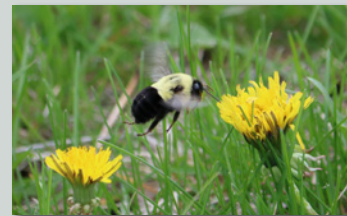


Photo via [Sycamore Greenway Friends](#).



## MG Birthdays

### May 2023

Angie Dains  
Sandy Gannon  
Sharon Jeter  
Marilyn Kempnich  
Elizabeth Loeb  
Joyce Miller  
Lori Penn-Goetsch  
Bonnie Penno  
Melia Pieper  
Christopher Smith  
Emily Thomas

## Marilou Gay (1927-2023)

Condolences to Marilou Gay's family. Marilou loved gardening and was a member of several gardening groups and an inaugural member of the Johnson County Master Gardeners in 1982. Private services will be held at a later date. Memorial gifts may be directed to her church, Johnson County 4-H and Johnson County Master Gardeners. <https://gayandciha.com/tribute/details/4697/Marilou-Gay/obituary.html>

## 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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Johnson County  
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