



# Johnson County Master Gardener Thymes



September 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

### Firefighths' 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



## Plum Grove Taste of Heritage Gardens

BY CAROLYN MURPHY

Taste of the Heritage Gardens was held July 12, 5:30 to 7 P.M. Due to a threatening storm forecast and previous rain during the week, the backup plan was put into to place, and the event was moved to the Johnson County Extension building. Thank you to all who helped us with this change.

We had a smaller crowd, which was to be expected with the location change. I believe this is only the fourth time in 26 years that the location was moved due to weather. We were pleased to see some of our loyal followers from the Lucas

Farms neighborhood show up to enjoy the music, food, ice cream and flower arrangements. A bouquet of flowers was picked from all three of the Plum Gardens and given as the first door prize. A short program was presented, and flower bouquets were given out.

There were around 50 MGs involved with this project, 56 paying guests, 5 Old Post Office Brass Band members, and Donna Dane present (around 100 people total). Donna was kind enough to bring the ice cream and cooler for the evening. We made the choice to pay for the ice cream this year as it has become a highlight of the event. In the past, Donna has donated ice cream, in memory of her mother.

## MG Steering Committee Meeting

Next meeting **Wednesday, September 13**, 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 September issue by **Monday, September 25**.

Allie Dane was a longtime Master Gardener. As in previous years, a donation was made to the Old Post Office Brass Band. Twenty-seven cookbooks were sold at \$1.00 each.

Please turn in any bills you have for this event.

Thank you to all the cooks, servers, setup/teardown crew, bouquet makers, greeters, coordinators, and everyone who helped with this event. It was fun. I hope you had a chance to talk with fellow MGs and the guests during the evening.

#### Plum Grove Heritage Garden Committee:

Darlen Clausen, Lavon Yeggy, Carolyn Murphy, Beth Fisher



# Save the Date

## Johnson County Master Gardener Fall Harvest Potluck

This year's JCMG Fall Harvest Potluck will be held **Sunday, October 1**, at the Johnson County Extension office.

Setup is at 4 P.M., and everyone is welcome to help. Social hour from 4 to 5 P.M., after which dinner will be served. Once most are settled in we will be playing an educational game in lieu of a speaker. This is a great time to get to know your fellow Master Gardeners and enjoy some excellent food. Bring your own table service and a dish to share with the group. In order to have variety we are asking participants to bring items by last name:

- Main Dish: A through H
- Salads: I through P
- Desserts: Q through Z.

If you are excited to bring something that does not fall in your category please feel free to bring it instead. Please contact Beth Fisher, [scrabblegirl2@gmail.com](mailto:scrabblegirl2@gmail.com) or Shannon Bielicke, [bielicke@iastate.edu](mailto:bielicke@iastate.edu) with any questions.



### IMPORTANT REMINDER: Record Your Hours!



I know you have been working hard all year long so please don't wait to record your MG volunteer and educational hours. These numbers are used to report accomplishments to the steering committee, partnering organizations, Johnson County Extension council, and Iowa State University to use for state reporting. It is important to stay on track with your reporting so that we are able to meet deadlines. Please make a habit to record your hours each day or week to stay current!

To record your hours on the Volunteer Reporting System visit <https://mastergardenerhours.hort.iastate.edu/>. The final deadline is **Friday, December 29**, however it is important to not wait until the last minute. Thank you for your due diligence and please contact Shannon Bielicke, [bielicke@iastate.edu](mailto:bielicke@iastate.edu) with questions.

If you are short on educational hours or need information about reporting your hours please visit our Johnson County Master Gardener Program page [www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/master-gardener-program](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/master-gardener-program). Also, please visit the Iowa Master Gardener YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/@iamastergardeners/videos>, new videos have recently been posted.

## 2023 Fall Master Gardener Training Program: In-Person Sessions

The 2023 Fall Master Gardener Training has begun. Johnson County Master Gardeners has 37 participants joining the hybrid educational program this year. All JCMGs are invited to attend the in-person sessions listed below. We want to make sure the new students feel welcome and you can get in some educational hours at the same time. If you are interested in joining any of the sessions or have any questions please email Shannon Bielicke, [bielicke@iastate.edu](mailto:bielicke@iastate.edu) so that enough space and handouts are available. If you are interested in bring treats for the class it would always be welcomed.

- Fairgrounds tour—at the Johnson County Extension office, Thursday, September 14, 6 to 7:30 P.M.
- Tree Class with Mark Vitosh DNR Forester—at the Johnson County Extension office, Thursday, September 28, 6 to 7:30 P.M.
- Garden Bridge Outreach, Scott Koepke – at the Johnson County Extension office, Thursday, October 12, 6 to 7:30 P.M.
- Online Resources—at the Johnson County Extension office, Thursday, October 26, 6 to 7:30 P.M.
- Wrap Up Class –at the Johnson County Extension office, Thursday, November 9, 6 to 7:30 P.M. (Project leaders are encouraged to attend and share about their volunteer opportunities.)

## JCMG Demonstration Garden Continues to Grow Better, Bigger

BY LINDA SCHREIBER

Hot, hot, hot! The dog days of summer didn't subside for the annual Johnson County 4-H & FFA Fair the last full week of July. It was beastly hot, so much so that fair officials sent some livestock home as early as 5 P.M. on Wednesday. The fair closed Thursday with the annual livestock auction.

The fair may have ended, but work in the Demonstration Garden continues with regular Tuesday evening work sessions. With a small army of volunteers caring for and watering multiple times a week, the garden is flourishing, bigger and better

than ever.

Pop-up work sessions are added when produce needs immediate attention like picking aronia berries to donate to the Coralville Community Food Pantry. At the end of July, the group made a 178-pound aronia berry donation.

Depending on the weather, there's likely another couple of months to the growing season before the garden and volunteers can rest. There will be much more produce to donate with more than a dozen tomato plants in ripening stages and lots of winter squash growing on the vines. The bounty of produce is sure to achieve new donation records. Already this year, the garden has donated more than 400 pounds of produce — in 2022, more than 500 pounds of produce from the garden was donated.



Ann Ruppencamp fills an important role as the garden monitor who often harvests and delivers produce to the food pantries in between group work sessions. Harvesting produce when it's ready is essential to prevent spoilage and ensure others enjoy the garden's bounty when it's at peak flavor.

Planning for this signature Master Gardener activity begins in the winter months when volunteers select seeds to grow and a theme for the garden. This year's garden highlighted companion plants. Garden coordinators Chris Sedrel and Laurie Roehl note they chose vegetables that grow better with an agreeable companion and created garden signs identifying every plant in the garden and their "plant pals." They provided fair visitors information to take home identifying what grows best with a pal.

According to lifetime Master Gardener Barb Schintler, the first vegetable demonstration at the Johnson County fair was a few tomato plants planted on the west side of Montgomery Hall. Marilou Gay coaxed Johnson County Agricultural



Association officers, known as the fair board, into a real garden initially planted by one of the cattle barns in 1993. In 2017, fair officials requested moving the garden and provided space north of the Heritage Barn as a permanent location. The following year, they suggested adding a wire corn crib to give the garden area a look and feel of an Iowa farmstead.



For the next two years, the new garden was established and flowers were added before the coronavirus pandemic hit in 2020-2021 shuttered fair competition and the Master Gardener Plant Sale

& Flea Market. Through it all, Master Gardeners continued to maintain all Fairground Gardens, including the Demonstration Garden until in-person activities resumed in 2021.

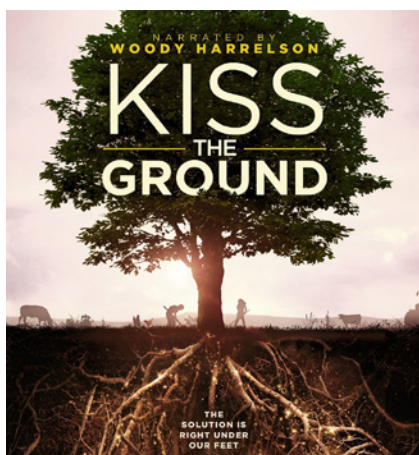
In 2022, Master Gardeners added a storage shed and John Weeg guided plans to establish a hügelkultur berm to improve the heavily compacted soil and the garden's moisture retention. After digging down 4 feet and 2 feet wide to remove the soil, layers of wood, compost, plant debris and dried manure were added back transforming the space. As the wood gradually decays, it will be a consistent source of long-term nutrients and moisture for the plants.

This season, volunteers added three new raised beds to accompany the raised rock garden that was added in 2019 and selected companion plants to create ideal growing conditions.

Master Gardener coordinators indicate the garden will have another new look in 2024 with education as an emphasis along with growing produce to combat food insecurity in Johnson County.

## Kiss the Ground' documentary film to be shown at ICPL

BY LINDA SCHREIBER



It has been tough to beat the heat this summer. I wonder if that means the climate crisis has reached Iowa. And, if so, will Iowans recognize that we are nearing a tipping point? The environment is Iowa's greatest asset and it should be protected more than it is.

I learned about a new documentary film while coordinating speakers for JCMG and Project GREEN and worked with Beth Fisher at the Iowa City Public Library and a group of local nonprofit organizations to bring the film to Iowa City.

The film will be shown on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 7 P.M., in the Iowa City Public Library. The sponsors of the film are Project GREEN and the Iowa City Public Library and nonprofit organizations concerned about the environment including 100 Grannies, Backyard Abundance, Bur Oak Land Trust, Johnson County Master Gardeners, and the League of Women Voters of Johnson County.

This free screening is made available by a grant from Roco Films.

***Kiss the Ground*** is an inspiring and groundbreaking film narrated by and featuring Woody Harrelson. The film reveals the first viable solution to our climate crisis – by regenerating the world's soils, we can completely and rapidly stabilize the earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems and create abundant food supplies. Using compelling graphics and visuals, along with striking NASA and NOAA footage, the film artfully illustrates how, by drawing down atmospheric carbon, the soil is the missing piece of the climate puzzle. The movie is positioned to catalyze a movement to accomplish the impossible—to solve humanity's greatest challenge, to balance the climate and secure our species' future." <https://kisstheground.com/>

## Late Summer Pleasures of a Moon Garden

BY ALICE LINHART

Imagine every gardener has their favorite time of year with their favorite flowers — mine is early spring ephemerals, and the end of summer moon garden. This year I was concerned my flowers wouldn't be ready but as always, nature does its thing and the flowers are poised to be blooming by the full moon, blue moon, super moon at the end of August!

Moon gardens by definition are gardens to be enjoyed by the light of the moon. The light from the moon is reflected differently off flowers and even foliage at dusk and at nighttime. They can bloom late in the day or at night with highly fragrant white blossoms that become a beautiful sensory garden.

I grow my moon garden right in front of the



*Phlox paniculata 'David'*

house for maximum enjoyment. I have selected my favorite white fragrant flowers over the years including Casa Blanca hardy lilies that bloom in early summer and perennial *Phlox paniculata* 'David'

that has been blooming for several weeks now. Mostly, though, my flowers are annuals. I plant old fashioned trailing white petunias, various begonias, geraniums and lobelia in containers that bloom all summer. I plant tender tuberose bulbs (The Pearl *Polianthes*) in containers

or in the ground in spring. Those, along with the next three are the superstars and are just starting to bloom. Woodland tobacco (*Nicotiana sylvestris*) with its giant tobacco leaves grows to 4 to 5 feet with 3-inch trumpet flowers exploding like fireworks on the top of the plant. Fairy trumpet 4 o'clock (*Mirabilis longiflora*) is a short vine with delightful white flowers with raspberry centers and long curving stamens. And then there is datura (family *Solanaceae*) trumpet flower. A spectacular trumpet flower 7 inches long and 5 inches wide! Wowzer are they incredible, but they are also poisonous so handle appropriately. This year I added a container with jasmine and Mandevilla to enjoy while sitting on the deck. The choices are endless!



*Nicotiana sylvestris*

Moon garden flowers are fragrant to entice hummingbird moths to sip and pollinate the flowers, therefore I am tolerant when I see tobacco hornworms on my plants as they are the larvae of the magnificent hummingbird moths. In fact, I love to see caterpillars as my gardens are for the enjoyment of insects, bees, butterflies, moths, caterpillars, birds, frogs, toads, and other wildlife.

So here we are at the end of the summer when the air is close and the moon is bright. You can find me outside surrounding myself with intoxicating fragrance and beauty of the flowers enjoying the last of the warm summer evenings in my moon garden.



*Mirabilis longiflora*

*The Pearl Polianthes*



*Datura, Trumpet Flower (genus Datura)*

*Casa Blanca lily*





## It's Thyme to: September Edition

BY LINDA SCHREIBER

The days are getting shorter, football practice has started, and many songbirds have begun their vacation flights south. Have you noticed fall is coming? It will arrive—astronomically—Sept. 23.

### Plant cool-season crops

My gardening guides and prompts indicate it's not too late to plant. Lettuce, arugula, mustard greens, baby leaf salad greens, radishes, salad turnips and spinach can still go in the ground for a fall garden.

The spinach you plant in the fall can even survive winter. Just mulch it with straw or use a row cover. In the spring when the snow thaws, remove the mulch/row cover to allow it to regrow. Spinach harvest can happen until May. If you want to harvest throughout the winter, it will be necessary to cover with hoops and row cover or plastic. Weigh the edges down and clip the cover with clamps. Propping the hoops up will prevent the cover from damaging the leaves and will make a small greenhouse. Hoops can be made of PVC or metal wire or conduit.

Don't know how to make a hoop cover? These short videos explain the process:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZmPDPx6GCQ>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ds2W4c60UfQ>

### Additional September garden activities

- Add color to the landscape with mums and pansies
- Improve your garden soil by adding compost, shredded leaves, other organic matter
- Plant spring flowering bulbs
- Clean up plant material from your vegetable gardens
- Bring houseplants that have been vacationing outside all summer into the house – watch for insects and treat immediately
- Dry flowers

- Improve your lawn with aeration and fertilizer, reseeding, or repair/seeding of bald spots

### September is also harvest time

As you pick your vegetables, you will need to make decisions about donations as well as determine how you will store the bounty of your garden. Johnson County has multiple donation points conveniently located – check the *JCMG Growing Together Grant* for more information.

Tomatoes can easily be blanched to remove the skins and canned. Gardeners may also decide to roast the tomatoes, freeze them and make sauce later. <https://awaytogarden.com/skins-easy-tomato-sauce-freeze/>.

Maybe you have lots of green beans, corn and zucchini. Freezing vegetables is very easy to do - wash, cut, blanch, and freeze. The internet has suggestions too numerous to list.

Too many cucumbers? How about making a refrigerator dill or maybe a hot-pack bread and butter pickle? You can freeze herbs (freeze chopped herbs in water in ice cube trays to use in soups all winter) or make them into pestos to freeze. Google how to make flavored vinegars and herbed salts for unique and personal holiday gifts.

Enjoy the fall. You know what's ahead!.

### Sources:

- <https://costafarms.com/blogs/get-growing/10-september-gardening-tips>
- <https://awaytogarden.com/september-garden-chores-2/>
- <https://www.thespruce.com/what-to-do-in-the-garden-in-september-1402183>
- <https://www.gardenista.com/posts/what-to-do-in-the-garden-in-september/>





# Project Updates

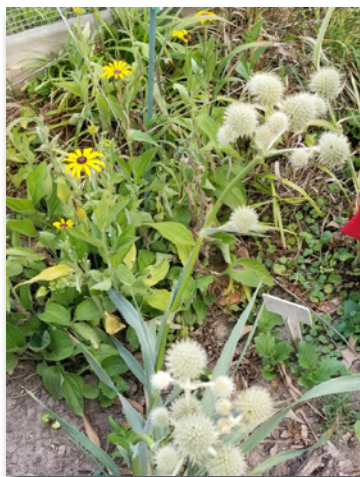
## Plum Grove Gardens

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

Plum Grove had some unexpected visitors this last month. "Bucky" the deer first arrived the week of the fair and stayed around all week. One evening while coming to water, Darlene was surprised to see a doe and two fawns standing at the gate. They ran off. Once Darlene entered the gate, closing it behind, she was startled by a young buck just behind the tree! A bit later, the police came, having received a report of a deer in the fence. They chased Bucky around but failed to get him to go to the gate. It was okay with Bucky as he had plenty of beans & potato plants to eat. He took naps in the brush along the fence line, the grass in wildflower garden, and the cabbage patch. He stayed about a week. A few days later, while Sadia and Darlene were picking plums, Mama and two fawns were spotted hiding in the brush. They gradually came out, the fawns leaping like baby goats leading Mama to the open gate.

It has taken a lot of extra watering to keep things growing but we do have fall beets, carrots, spinach, and Swiss chard planted.

Grandma's Flower Garden has needed frequent watering, too, but has rewarded us with flowers in constant bloom. Many butterflies go between those flowers and the wildflower garden. There we watered new plants; the native plants only needed a few deep waterings for healthy blooms.



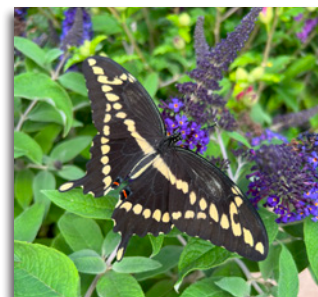
## Butterfly House at Fairgrounds

### CAROLYN MURPHY AND MIKE MURPHY, COORDINATORS

Another year in the books. This was the 10th year hosting the Butterfly House exhibit.

A July fair assures it will almost always be hot, but this year was really a scorcher and probably accounts for the small crowd. The Butterfly House visitor count was around 4,500. While this number was down from our average of 6,100, it did give us more time to talk with the visitors.

Each year we add to our educational displays and this year was no different. We added an outdoor sign on pollinators and native plants. The Butterfly House was also



*Giant Swallowtail.*



registered as a monarch waystation with Monarch Watch. Both signs were installed in front of the hoophouse where they will provide year-round educational information (take time to read them if you haven't already).

With the help of the Forever Green crew, we re-stacked the stone, planted a flat of native plants (donated by Lucy Hershberger), mulched, mowed, and trimmed the area. The Demo Garden group donated crescent stones they no longer could use and with a few purchased stones, we were able to complete the job in time for the fair. Inside the hoophouse, Forever Green provides most of the trees, shrubs, flower garden displays, however, this year I asked for a corner to set up and show the different types of milkweed plants and how you can engage your kids in learning about butterflies and other pollinators. I saw the idea of using painted clay pots to resemble a caterpillar at the Monarch Watch gardens in Lawrence, Kansas this spring. It is an easy project that teachers or families can do to encourage kids to be outside and enjoy nature.

While we are used to having a few daycare and preschools kids come to the Butterfly House exhibit, we were pleasantly surprised to have a whole summer camp program come over three days. The North Liberty group brought groups of 10 kids each morning and afternoon, with younger kids in the morning and older kids in the afternoon. We set up a tour for each group, including inside the Butterfly House, hands-on displays, making seedballs, and showing a butterfly's life cycle using a paper plate and pasta while talking about pollinators and why they are important. Each kid picked out a sticker and bookmark, took a group picture in front of the butterfly stand, ran through the caterpillar tunnel and then off to see the animals. The summer camp counselors and daycare staff are very special individuals. Thank you to the Master Gardeners for helping prepare the paper plates and helping with this extra activity during the fair.

We were especially pleased to see teenagers take an interest in the displays and ask questions. They could be future scientists.

Twenty-three Master Gardeners attended the training on Saturday, July 22, to hear about 11 species of native butterflies and Luna moths that we purchased. We even managed to have a monarch hatch during the training. Lucy and I ordered from two sources to get a variety of butterflies, chrysalises, moths, and cocoons. With monarchs being scarce this year, we decided to get a variety of swallowtail butterflies and moths. The Luna moths came as cocoons; however, they hatched as onlookers watched. It was worth the effort and extra shipping cost. The Giant (pictured) and Zebra Swallowtails were showy and made quite a statement. I hope you had the opportunity to snap a few photos of them. As it turned out we did get 60 monarchs and with those we raised, we had over 100 monarchs. Other butterflies included Question Marks, Buckeye, Red Admiral, Painted Ladies, and an assortment of swallowtails.

Forty-two MGs and three Forever Green staff worked during the fair. Thank you, thank you! The hoophouse, outside displays, merchandise and tattoos, seed ball making, and kids activities kept us all pretty busy. Thank you to Mahmooda for the henna tattoos and gorgeous designs. Mahmooda also donated plants to sale. Liz Loeb donated "Hungry Caterpillar" hair ties. Thanks Liz, they sold very well.



*Daycare kids at 2023 fair.*



*Summer Camp group from North Liberty 2023.*



*Teenage boys looking at display.*



All proceeds and freewill donations from the fair will be used to help purchase butterfly displays. With the funds from the silent auction and donations during the year we had enough money to cover the cost of this year's expenses and a good start for next year.

On Wednesday evening at 5 P.M. we released around 60 monarchs. Much to our surprise we had a crowd of over 50 people. Due to the heat, most the food vendors and exhibitors left around P.M. The rest of the monarchs (mating pairs) were released in the flowers at the Demo Gardens. You can visit the butterfly house at Forever Green nursery to see the other butterflies. Master Gardeners are helping care for eggs (now caterpillars) that were laid on host plants. Thank you Skip and Marilyn Kempnick for sharing the photos and video of the release.

Mike and I hope you enjoyed volunteering with this project and learned something new along the way. interested in helping with other butterfly events, let know. We are frequently asked to bring our displays and join community and school events during the year.



2023 Monarch Release at end of the fair

## Yard & Garden Information

### JACKIE WELLBORN AND KAY MOHLING, COORDINATORS

The Yard and Garden Information group hosted a table at the Taste of the Heritage Garden on July 12 from 5:30 to 7 P.M. Even though the weather didn't cooperate, and the event was moved indoors to the Johnson County ISU Extension building, we still had people visit the table, pick up resources, and ask questions. Some even asked questions about the flower arrangement that they had just won.

The Yard and Garden Information table had a great turnout at the Johnson County 4-H Fair and was staffed all four days. We answered many gardening questions, wrote down other questions to research, and talked to several people about various subjects and, of course, the heat and drought. Thanks to Shannon for creating a new handout describing how to become a Master Gardener, several of the handouts were picked up by fair attendees. On Aug. 31 we will provide information and handouts at the Plum Grove Tomato Taste event from 5 to 6:30 P.M.





## MG Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

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

**September 2023**



### 100 Grannies

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

**Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7–9 P.M.**

DOCUMENTARY FILM: *KISS THE GROUND*. The public is invited to view the documentary film at the ICPL. See article on page 3.



### Backyard Abundance

<http://backyardabundance.org/events>

**Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7–9 P.M.**

DOCUMENTARY FILM: *KISS THE GROUND*. The public is invited to view the documentary film at the ICPL. See article on page 3.

**Friday, Sept. 22 6–9 P.M.**

AUTUMNAL EQUINOX: A HOLISTIC GATHERING. Harvest Preserve, 1645 N Scott Blvd. Unleash your creativity by crafting a floral headpiece and enjoying the serenity of nature. Register: <https://www.backyardabundance.org/event-details/AutumnalEquinoxHolisticGathering>.



### Bur Oak Land Trust

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

**Sunday, Sept. 10, 9–11 A.M.**

MILKWEED HARVEST AT CORRIELL NATURE PRESERVE. Muscatine County. Join Bur Oak this fall for milkweed harvests to support habitat and food sources for monarch butterflies. 🦋 Volunteers will collect whorled and common milkweed pods at Corriell Nature Preserve in Muscatine County. The milkweed seeds will be planted around Bur Oak preserves to establish way stations, or patches of food and habitat, for monarch caterpillars and butterflies. Each person will also get to take home a spring native seed mix, including milkweed seeds, to plant at home and create even more resources for this beloved pollinator. The event is free, but registration is required and limited to 20 vehicles: <https://buroaklandtrust-bloom.kindful.com/e/milkweed-harvest>

**Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7–9 P.M.**

DOCUMENTARY FILM: *KISS THE GROUND*. The public is invited to view the documentary film at the ICPL. See article on page 3.





## Eastern Iowa Bird Watchers/IC Birds

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

### Saturday, Sept 2 thru Monday, Sept. 4

CY-HAWK BIRDING CHALLENGE. It's the Hawkeyes (Iowa City Bird Club) vs. the Cyclones (Big Bluestem Audubon Society) in a competition to find the most bird species. Birders from across Iowa can participate with either team in the designated area. Back by popular demand this year is another three-day event—however this year, individuals may bird as many of the three days as they like. Bird solo or with a group of friends. Choose your own route within these counties: Johnson, Linn, Iowa, Muscatine, and Louisa. Our Hawkeye strategy will be to coordinate our locations to cover as much area as possible. So please register ahead with your name(s) and desired locations, or ask Chris if you want location suggestions. Competition rules and more information can be found here: <https://iowacitybirdclub.org/cy-hawk-challenge/>.

### Sunday, Sept. 17, 9 A.M.–1 P.M.

HAWK WATCH AT STAINBROOK PRESERVE. 2192 Mehaffey Bridge RD NE, Solon. Directions: park on the north shoulder pull-off just east of Mehaffey Bridge. Look for the Stainbrook Preserve sign and follow the short path up the hill. <http://www.iowacitybirdclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Map-1Hawkwatch.gif>

### Friday, Sept 22, 10 A.M. and Saturday, Sept. 23, 10:30 A.M.

BUILDING BETTER BIRDERS WORKSHOP. Members from the Iowa City Bird Club will lend a hand in providing expertise on the bird hikes. Friday's schedule includes a presentation on Nocturnal Raptors of Iowa and an evening Owl Prowl. Saturday's schedule includes a morning bird hike, a presentation on diurnal raptors, and a live raptor program. For a complete schedule visit <https://buildingbetterbirders.com/>. Registration is required online or by phone at (319) 645-2315.

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>

### Wednesday, Sept. 6, 9–10:30 A.M., Sept. 13, 2–3:30 P.M., Sept. 20, 9–10:30 A.M. and Sept. 27, 9–11 A.M.

VOLUNTEER MONARCH TAGGING. Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park, 2048 HWY 6 NW, Oxford. We need volunteers to help us 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. Register: <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Johnson/Events.aspx>

**Wednesday, Sept. 6, 10–11:30 A.M.. Sept. 27, 2–3:30 P.M.**

**PRAIRIE SEED HARVEST.** Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park, 2048 HWY 6 NW, Oxford. Helping to harvest prairie seeds allows volunteers to take up an active role in the restoration of our county's native ecosystems, and all collected seed is used for JCC's restoration projects for the next year. The task itself is easy for all ages of volunteers, and no background experience is necessary. Some events require hiking between one and two miles over uneven and mildly sloped terrain. For anyone with mobility limitations, the Senior Seed Harvests are best, and will feature harvest options very close to parking areas. All locations are subject to change based on seed conditions. Updates will be shared via email with all registered participants. Events dependent on weather and dry seed conditions. Register: <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Johnson/Events.aspx>

JOHNSON



## Johnson County-ISU Extension

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

**Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7–9 P.M.**

**DOCUMENTARY FILM: *KISS THE GROUND*.** The public is invited to view the documentary film at the ICPL. See article on page 3.

Linn County



## 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>

**Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7–9 P.M.**

**DOCUMENTARY FILM: *KISS THE GROUND*.** The public is invited to view the documentary film at the ICPL. See article on page 3.



## Seed Savers Exchange

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

No events listed this month.



## Trees Forever

<https://treesforever.org/events>

No events listed this month.



## Insect Encounters: Broad-handed Leafcutter Bee

*Megachile latimanus*

Female leafcutter bees will snip rounded bits of leaves to use in lining the cells of their nests. Each cell will have an egg provisioned with pollen and nectar for the larvae to consume upon hatching. Male Broad-handed Leafcutter Bees, like this fellow, have pretty green eyes and fringed legs.



*Photo via Sycamore Greenway Friends*

## Tree Tours on the Pentacrest

**Saturday, October 14, 12 to 1 P.M.**

Join the Pentacrest Museums in partnership with UI liveWELL and UI Facilities Management for guided strolls on campus featuring the ecological diversity, symbolism, history, and lore of our trees. We'll dedicate some time once each season to these nature walk & talks for discovery in a program—designed for you—with resilience and curiosity in mind.

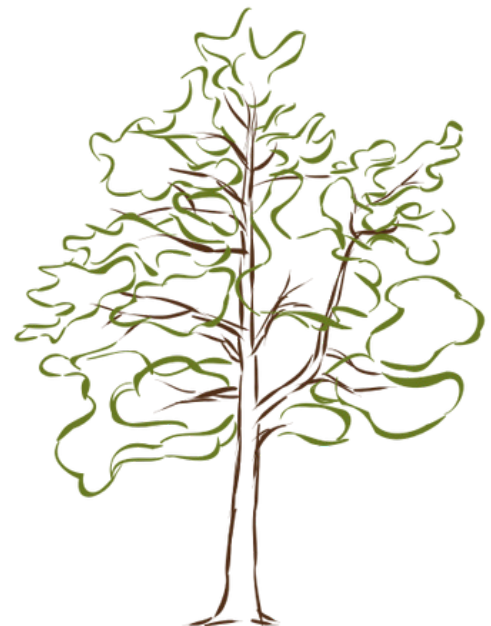
- Meet outside near the main entrance to Macbride Hall, at the bottom of the stairs on the eastside of the building.
- Rain, snow, or shine (we reschedule when there's lightning).
- ALL are welcome (students, staff/faculty, community).

## West Campus Tree Tour

**Friday, October 20, 12 P.M.**

Join the Pentacrest Museums in partnership with liveWELL and UI Facilities Management for guided strolls on campus featuring the ecological diversity, symbolism, history, and lore of our trees. We'll use the lunch hour once in the spring (on Arbor Day!), summer, autumn, and winter on these nature walk & talks for discovery in this program—designed for you—with resilience and curiosity in mind.

- Meet at the Field House parking lot, just outside the double doors.
- Rain, snow or shine (we'll reschedule if lightning).
- All are welcome (students, staff/faculty, community).



# Need a few more volunteer hours to finish out 2023?

*The hours can be counted towards non-JCMG-approved project hours (when recording hours, mark it under other and then make sure to include location and a description of the task).*

## Grow Johnson County—Volunteering

Grow Johnson County—located at 4811 Melrose Ave., Iowa City—has a mission to improve healthy food access through SUSTAINABLE food production and hands-on education. The Grow farm produces over 30,000 pounds of produce every year directly donated to our partner agencies throughout Johnson County. They are always in need of volunteers especially to assist with harvesting of food. We encourage you to go to their website ([growjohnsoncounty.org/volunteer](https://growjohnsoncounty.org/volunteer)) and fill out the volunteer form.

The routine volunteer days/hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 A.M. to noon, May to November. However, they often have harvest hours in the evening during days of the week. If you register on their volunteer website and provide your email they will contact you about these additional times. The contact person for volunteering is Lisa Stark and she can be reached at [lisa@ivr.cd.org](mailto:lisa@ivr.cd.org) or 319-325-9446.



## Volunteers Needed: Sycamore Greenway

Volunteers are needed to help clear brush from the Sycamore Greenway trail in south Iowa City: the small trees and shrubs threaten to crowd out the native prairie flowers and grasses that line the trail. Workdays are scheduled for various Sunday mornings September through November, from 9 to 10:30 A.M. The work will primarily involve using loppers to remove woody brush (a limited number of loppers are available to borrow if you don't have your own).

This work is done with support of the City of Iowa City; please visit the SignUp Genius link for more details and event dates: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f48acab2fa4fdc25-brush4#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f48acab2fa4fdc25-brush4#/)/. Email JCMG Melissa Serenda at [msserenda@gmail.com](mailto:msserenda@gmail.com) with questions.







## MG Birthdays

**September 2023**

Julie Crockett  
Dorothy Fowles  
Marilou Gay  
Holly Hotchkiss  
Tracy Hufford  
Brandi Janssen  
Sue Kloos  
Mary Mascher  
Cindy Parsons  
Doug Parsons  
Cynthia Pickett  
Esther Retish  
Michele Sorrell

### 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 City, IA 52246*

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