



Johnson County Master Gardener

THYMES

December 2020/January 2021

MG Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 9 and Jan. 13, 7 P.M.; virtual meeting via Zoom. Interested MGs are invited to participate—contact Shannon for instructions!

Thymes Deadline

Information/articles for the Thymes should be sent to Melissa Serenda at msserenda@gmail.com or Doug Geraets at: dougrph@aol.com.

Please send news, volunteer opportunities, stories, pictures, gardening book reviews, etc., for the February issue by **Friday, January 29, 2021**.

REMINDER: Time to Report MG Hours!!

MG membership renewal will not require members meeting yearly minimum hours this year. However, volunteer and education hours recorded by Dec. 31 will be used by ISU Extension for reporting purposes.

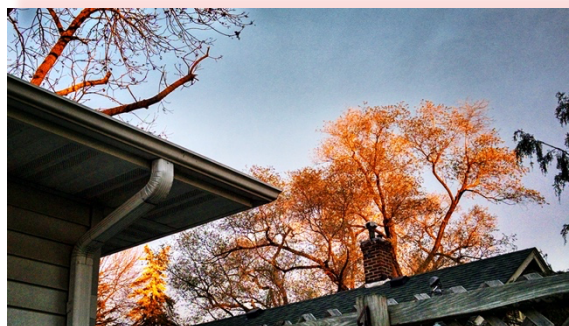
Backyard Weather

BY SHARON RUDE

Some may say 2020 has been a strange year, even when it comes to the weather. But as residents of Iowa, we all know the saying, “Wait five minutes, and the weather will change.” Our Iowa weather can change in a matter of minutes or from day to day. Nature’s beauty can be observed when we have those drastic changes though. My pictures are a record of what can happen from one day to the next. In November 2015, the sunrise was casting a

beautiful golden glimmer on the trees in my neighborhood.

It was so beautiful and amazing, I had to capture some pictures of the trees in my backyard and surrounding neighborhood.



Fast-forward 24 hours and Mother Nature decided to change up the landscape. Overnight, several inches of fresh snow blanketed the area. What was golden one day was now covered in white.



Who doesn't love a fresh overnight snow on a bright sunny morning, with the snow painting a beautiful picture on trees and shrubs? It's another good reason to leave some plants in your yard in the fall for visual winter interest, with an added bonus of shelter for small animals and birds—a little protection from the winter elements. When I think of the strange weather Iowa experienced in 2020, it may not be too unusual from some of the weather changes we have seen in the past!

Raptor Center Update

BY ALICE LINHART

In October, Ann Tvedt, Linda Schreiber and Alice Linhart met with the Land Manager at the Raptor

Center for the first time this year. The Iowa Raptor Project or IRP in the Macbride Nature Recreation Area (MNRA) owned and operated by the University of Iowa. The derecho caused substantial tree damage at MNRA. Fortunately, no birds were injured. MNRA will be closed until spring.



Ann and Linda learn about future plans for the Iowa Raptor Project.

The IRP will take on a new direction with the management change that occurred this year. MNRA consists of approximately 500 acres of land in three parcels. IRP is part of the largest, an approximately 300-acre parcel. The discovery was made that *all the properties in the MNRA are remnant oak savanna prairie* which has never been disturbed. The MNRA has decided to take on the Herculean task of working to recreate the prairie by removing foreign plants and only propagating native plants found on this property. Any plant not native to MNRA is unwelcome. Only native plants from these properties will be propagated and planted. Specifically, the Butterfly Garden will be eliminated and the pond moved to a location near the bird blind which was rebuilt after it was destroyed by the derecho. There will be a small walking area for children to enjoy.

At Alice's suggestion the Hummingbird Garden will be renamed the Pollinator Garden and MNRA native pollinator plants will be relocated to this location. In addition, a Woodland Garden will be established across the walkway from the Pollinator Garden.

Plants will be labeled for educational purposes. Although Iowa native plants are growing here, they will be removed unless they are native to MNRA

property. This will create opportunities for other Master Gardener projects to request plants from this area and any remaining plants will be available for the JCMG plant sale and individuals.

The exact role of Master Gardeners will be developed as we begin our work in the spring. We believe this to be an exciting new direction, especially for native plant enthusiasts!



Extension and Outreach Garden Calendar



Bloodroot, bluebells, prairie smoke, bur oak, witch hazel, winterberry, and other Iowa native plants are featured in the 2021 Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Garden Calendar. This 12-month calendar showcases the beauty of several plants native to Iowa woodlands or prairies each month throughout the year. Many of these Iowa natives also perform well in the home landscape.

The large calendar grid acts as a gardening journal to record the progress of your garden. Refer to the monthly tips that provide timely cultural information for fruits and vegetables, lawn care recommendations, tree and shrub guidance, and other information. Whether it is flowers, fruits, vegetables, trees, or turfgrass, this annual calendar provides tips on a variety of topics so that you can quickly know what task should be completed next in your garden. A limited number of calendars (\$7) will be available at the Extension Office on a first-come first-serve basis. They can also be purchased

from the ISU Store: <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/4127>.

<div>  MG Birthdays  </div>	
December 2020	
1	Lavon Yeggy
7	Stephany Hoffelt
9	Bernadette Fox
11	Emil Rinderspacher
12	Barbara Robinson
18	Sandy Steil
19	Chris Sedrel
24	Alice Linhart
27	Margaret Hibbs
27	Sharon Rude
28	Melanie Hauptert
31	Louise Murray
31	Doug Geraets
January 2021	
1	Joan Dinnel
4	Fred Meyer
5	Jim Ridenour
7	Kris Jones
9	Lois Dusdieker
13	Deborah Cassell
17	Gerald Kealey
18	Karen Martinek
21	Maggie Elliott
22	Darlene Clausen
23	Michael Farran
25	Stella Clark
30	Beth Fisher
30	Katherine Kelly

Mark Your Calendars!!

Project GREEN and the Iowa City Public Library present...

Second Sunday

*2021 Winter Garden **Virtual** Forums*

Attendees can register for the forums at

<https://www.icpl.org/events/ages/adults>

<i>Jan. 10, 2 P.M.</i>	<p>Update on Brucemore, National Trust Historic Site</p> 
<i>Feb. 14, 2 P.M.</i>	<p>Dr. Donald Lewis presents “<i>Love and Sex in the Garden.</i>”</p>
<i>Mar. 14, 2 P.M.</i>	<p>Beth Cody presents “<i>The History of Ornamental Gardening in Iowa.</i>”</p> 

**2021 JCMG
Virtual Continuing Education**

Contact Shannon Bielicke at 319-337-2145, bielicke@iastate.edu to register.

Sunday Date & Time	Topic
Jan. 24, 1:30 P.M.	Eric Miller— <i>The Joys and Challenges of Native Plant Gardening.</i>
Feb. 28, 1:30 P.M.	Jo Dillon— <i>Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden.</i>
Mar. 28, 1:30 P.M.	Deb Walser— <i>How to Prepare for Possible Drought Conditions.</i>

MG Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

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

December 2020–January 2021

Eastern Iowa Bird Watchers/IC Birds

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

Sunday, Dec. 20

Iowa City Christmas Bird Count. Field observation and Feeder watch. Join us for this holiday tradition! We need participants in the field and as feeder watchers. If you wish to be a field participant, you will be assigned to a specific area to cover. If you wish to be a feeder watcher, email Chris your address and he will make sure you are in the count circle and will send you a reporting form.

The Christmas Bird Count program is administered by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and it is the longest-running citizen science project in existence. The Iowa City count area is a 15-mile diameter circle centered in North Liberty. It includes parts of Iowa City, all of Coralville, Lake Macbride, Kent Park, and most of the Coralville Reservoir. The goal is to identify and count all the birds found in the count circle on the day of the count. The circle is divided into ten territories, and traditionally a group is assigned to cover each territory.

Modifications will be made to this year's count due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. To participate, contact Chris Edwards at <mailto:credwards@aol.com> or (319) 430-4732 by December 16.

Johnson County Conservation

<http://www.johnson-county.com/conservation>

salgreen@co.johnson.ia.us

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/johnsoncountyconservation/events/>

Ongoing through Dec. 14.

Storybook Trail (Self-Guided). F.W. Kent Conservation Education Center, 2048 Highway 6 NW, Oxford, IA. Johnson County Conservation has featured a self-guided Storybook Trail for families with young children to enjoy this summer and fall. The trail starts at the Conservation Education Center in Kent Park and wraps around a half-mile limestone surfaced trail. Four books will be featured this fall season. The books and dates featured are:

- Hibernation Station: Nov. 30–Dec. 14

Though this is created as an event, this is a self-guided trail. You can come out to hike it any day of the week, any time of day that works for you. The event is created to help remind you when a new book is posted. Details at <https://www.facebook.com/events/357607035278717/>.

Linn County-ISU Extension

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

Tuesdays, Dec. 1, Dec. 8, Dec. 15, 6:30 to 7:30 P.M.

Garden Talk Tuesdays. Zoom. The Linn County Master Gardeners are presenting weekly talks via Zoom in collaboration with Indian Creek Nature Center.

- Dec. 1: Public Gardens of Iowa
- Dec. 8: Blueberries Strawberries Raspberries oh my!
- Dec. 15: Gardening with Children

Cost \$5 per person/session. Find details and register for all via ICNC's event calendar:

<http://indiancreeknaturecenter.doubleknot.com/event/calendar/3421>.

Project GREEN

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

Sunday, Jan. 10, 2 to 4 P.M.

Second Sunday Winter Garden Forum. Online event. Our series will open with an update about Bruce more, the National Trust Historic Site in Cedar Rapids that was slammed by the devastating derecho on Aug. 10. The hurricane-force winds that swept across the estate damaged seven historic buildings, gates and statuary, and destroyed more than 70 percent of the tree canopy. With slides and commentary, a Bruce more representative will detail the damage and plans for recovery. Details at <https://www.facebook.com/events/373406177108618>.

Trees Forever

<http://www.treesforever.org/Events>

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 12 to 1 p.m.

Prairie Through the Seasons. Webinar. Join Trees Forever Program Manager Brad Riphagen on an exciting tour of prairie through the seasons. Learn what is blooming when, the importance of all year forage for pollinators, and practical steps on how you can get started with your own project. Register at <http://www.treesforever.org/PrairieSeasonsWebinar>.

Thursday, Dec. 10, 8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Our Woodland Legacy Symposium. Virtual format. The year 2020 has challenged our health and our resilience as we've dealt with a pandemic and natural disasters, including the Iowa derecho that shredded 65% of Cedar Rapids' and Marion's tree canopy, flattened acres of farmland, and damaged thousands of homes and businesses. This may be the most important symposium we've ever held. As we recover from the unspeakable loss of trees, it is vital that we carefully consider how to move forward to plan healthy, safe communities and equitable access to Nature. Join us virtually on Dec. 10, as world class speakers share their experience and knowledge to help us understand Why Trees Matter to our personal and community recovery. Fee: \$50; \$10 for Students and Americorps. More information and register at <http://www.treesforever.org/symposium>.

Thursdays, Jan. 7 and Jan. 14, 12 to 1 P.M.

Nature as Nurture Webinar Series. Webinar. In this difficult year, nature is a valuable resource to turn to for physical, emotional and psychological health. Join us for this webinar series featuring expert speakers Dr. Bill Sullivan and Amanda Taylor-Faber to learn how connecting with nature can be used to help you and your family stay healthy and heal. Presented in partnership with BiCAN. More information and register at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=22792>.

Additional Resources/Event Opportunities

100 Grannies

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

Backyard Abundance

<http://backyardabundance.org/events>

Bur Oak Land Trust

<https://www.facebook.com/BurOakLandTrust/events>

Iowa State Extension

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

Johnson County-ISU Extension

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

New Pioneer Coop

<https://www.newpi.coop/community>

Seed Savers

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



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Mail can be sent to:

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