



## Johnson County Master Gardener

# THYMES

**July/August 2021**

### MG Steering Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, July 14, 7 P.M.**, virtual Zoom meeting will continue for the near future. 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](mailto:msserenda@gmail.com) or Doug Geraets at: [dougrph@aol.com](mailto:dougrph@aol.com).

Please send news, volunteer opportunities, stories, pictures, gardening book reviews, etc., for the **September** issue by **Friday, August 27**.

### Butterfly House at the Johnson County Fair

◆ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ◆



Dates: Sunday, July 25 - Wednesday, July 28;  
Training Class July 24, 9:30–10:30 A.M.

**D**o not forget to sign up to help! You should have received the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084ca8ac2bafb0d-johnson2> from Shannon, however, if you have any problems, just send us an email or text and we will be sure to get you on the schedule. The schedule is divided into two shifts, although you can select the “Other” option and write in the times you can volunteer. It takes quite a few volunteers to run this exhibit efficiently.

We are setting up a little different this year. Even though visitors can go through the hoop house (in much smaller groups), the action is going to take place outside in front. We will have plenty of butterflies in enclosures, educational displays, brochures, and a tent for selling butterfly items. This will allow us to spread out with more space between visitors. Let us know if you have any questions. We will go over the changes at the training class July 24, 9:30–10:30 A.M. and of course, we will save time to show the new volunteers how to handle the butterflies.

On Tuesday at the fair, Kids’ Day, July 27, from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M., we have been asked to provide activities in the corn crib for the kids. I will need a minimum of two volunteers. Activities include Make & Take Seed Balls and a variety of coloring and crossword puzzles so far. If you have other ideas, please let us know. All supplies will be provided, you just need to show up and be ready to have fun!

Let Carolyn Murphy [candmmurphy@aol.com](mailto:candmmurphy@aol.com) or 319-541-7079 know if you can help with these projects.

**BY SHANNON BIELICKE**



- Johnson County Fair 2021 **Butterfly House:**  
[www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CA8AC2BABFD0-johnson2](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CA8AC2BABFD0-johnson2)
- Johnson County Fair 2021 **Demo Garden, Attended Displays, Corn Crib Youth Activity and Buckets of Flowers:**  
[www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CA8AC2BABFD0-johnson3](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CA8AC2BABFD0-johnson3)
- **Plum Grove** Garden Tours at Project GREEN Open Gardens Weekend AND Lucas Farm Days (Garden Guides & Attended Displays):  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CA8AC2BABFD0-plum>

- Interns must complete 40 volunteer hours (at least 20 of those need to be JCMG-approved project hours) during their first full calendar year in the program.
- Master Gardeners who have completed their internship will need to complete 20 volunteer hours (at least 10 of those need to be JCMG-

2. **We have also developed new procedures for the PSFM donations.** Next spring, as you dig plants to donate, knock off all the soil and bring your plants to the Johnson County Fairgrounds where potting mix and clean/sterilized containers will be available to pot plant donations. MG volunteers will be available to help you repot your donations and will tend the plants until the sale is held. A schedule of available times to pot donations will be developed.
3. **All perennial donations should arrive at the Fairgrounds by the end of April.** This major change will allow time for plants to be repotted, inventoried and give the plants an opportunity to adjust from transplant shock.

*In a subsequent newsletter we'll address shrubs, tender bulbs (cannas, etc.), vegetables, annuals, houseplants and flea market items and guidelines will be developed along with drop off times.*

We feel these changes will help us better *plan* and help our program to continue to *build on the success of previous years* and ultimately *benefit our customers*.

Please contact us about helping out with the PSFM. With all of the challenges of the past year, we will need an army of MG volunteers to continue our program's record of success.

Emil Rinderspacher ([emil-rinderspacher@uiowa.edu](mailto:emil-rinderspacher@uiowa.edu))

Darlene Clausen ([clausendarlene7@gmail.com](mailto:clausendarlene7@gmail.com))

#### References on Jumping Worms:

1. <https://extension.illinois.edu/news-releases/keep-eye-out-jumping-worms-gardening-season>
2. <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/plant-sales-and-jumping-worms>
3. <https://www.startribune.com/jumping-worm-invasion-upends-spring-plant-sale-season/600049305/>
4. <https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/flowers-fruits-and-frass/2021-05-13-invasive->

[jumping-worms-are-spreading-through-illinois](#)

## Naked Ladies and Other Amaryllis

BY MARY LOU MAYFIELD



When we moved to Iowa in March of 2013, we were looking at established gardens and wondering, "What's coming up?" One mystery was a bed of strap-like leaves that came up in the spring and died back in the summer without blooming. What went wrong? Then late summer came, and large buds were poking up from the dead leaves, buds that look like the popular holiday Amaryllis.



2013

Could it be related to Amaryllis? And surprise... the bud stalks grew like a long-legged "naked lady," and had beautiful pink Amaryllis flowers! It was then that I remembered the hardy "September lilies" that bloomed around my home in Georgia. A smaller species of Amaryllis, they also grew leaves in the spring that died back in the summer and had red-orange blooms in the fall. It turns out that there are several species in the genus *Lycoris*, with common names indicating the nature of the plant.'



Surprise Lily, Magic Lily, Mystery Lily, Resurrection Lily, etc. Some are called "spider" lilies, not to be confused with *Hymenocallis*, which is a different genus. The popular holiday flower commonly called "Amaryllis," is a *Hippeastrum*. The true *Amaryllis* is the Belladonna Lily. Other relatives include *Narcissus* (Daffodils), *Galanthus* (Snowdrops), and *Leucojum* (Snowflakes).

When we moved in, there were just a few Surprise lilies, planted close to the entrance of the storage area under the addition to our house. I dug them up and moved them a few feet to a place where they were less likely to be stepped on. They didn't bloom the next year, but the following year they did. Since then, the clump has grown from 6-8 blooms to 20 or more!



2018



2020

I also enjoy growing the holiday "Amaryllis." After the bulbs bloom, I store them in a sunny basement window until the leaves die down. I then put them in a dark corner and let them dry out. When they start showing leaves or flower buds, I bring them up and put them in a sunny window until they bloom again! After blooming, I put them in a shady corner of the garden until they die back again (bringing them in if we get a frost before the leaves die back).

Incidentally, all members of the Amaryllis family can be toxic, which means you don't want pets or small children to chew on them! Reasonable precautions should be taken when they are forced as house plants. My cats have always left them alone!

#### References:

1. <https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lycoris-squamigera>
2. <https://www.funnyhowflowersdothat.co.uk/hippeastrum-or-amaryllis-what%E2%80%99s-the-difference>
3. <https://www.carolinacountry.com/carolina-gardens/how-to-master-red-spider-lily-s-odd-growing-season>

## Volunteer Opportunity

### South District Neighborhood Seeks Gardening Assistance

Master Gardeners — with support from United Way of Johnson & Washington Counties' program partnering with University of Iowa student-athletes — helped the South District Neighborhood re-establish garden beds along Broadway Street in spring 2019. Last fall, MC created and planted two new beds with Stella de Oro daylilies. This spring the South District Neighborhood hosted Team Up to Clean Up activity throughout the area and the Broadway gardens were planted again.

The neighborhood would appreciate additional gardening assistance to guide neighbors and help them learn how to care for the flower gardens. If you can volunteer, please contact the South District at [southdistrictneighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:southdistrictneighborhood@gmail.com).

### JCMG Thymes Blog

BY MELISSA SERENDA



The JCMG Thymes Blog is now live! Created to offer an additional platform to share all the informative content created by MGs with the wider public, the site includes articles (harvested from current and past editions of *Thymes*), videos, and a Service page describing the projects MGs support.

Links to individual articles can be shared on social media or people can follow the page to read the latest information from JCMG. Check it out at: [jcmgthymes.wordpress.com](http://jcmgthymes.wordpress.com).



### MG Birthdays



#### July 2021

3	.....	Tomeka Magnani
4	.....	Polly Gould
6	.....	Linda Diggelmann
7	.....	Ruth Ellen Walker
8	.....	Amanda Vincent
8	.....	Laurie Roehl
9	.....	Mike Murphy
9	.....	Elayne Sexsmith
13	.....	Joel Wells
16	.....	Ann Tvedte
16	.....	Karen Fossee
20	.....	Benjamin Batzer
28	.....	Anne Atkins
31	.....	Kathleen VanDeWalle

#### August 2021

7	.....	Miechelle Weber
11	.....	JoAnne Leach
12	.....	Laura Bonifazi
12	.....	Steve Lyons
18	.....	Mary Mockaitis
24	.....	Priscilla White
28	.....	Jenny Loeser
29	.....	Lindsey Anderson
29	.....	Michael Kammerersmith

## 2020 YEAREND Awards Recognitions by SHANNON BIELICKIE



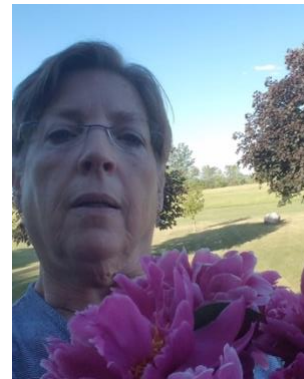
Johnson County Master Gardeners—we would like to express our gratitude for all that you do and give recognition to those who hit milestones in 2020 and went above and beyond... congratulations!!

**1st Year 40 Hours requirements.** Individuals listed below are now official JCMG and will receive their certificate, pin and name badge.

- Helene Donta (left in blue) and Mary Mockaitis (right in red)



- Laurie Roehl



- Constance Goeb



- Ann Ruppenkamp





- Joel Wells



**Volunteer Hours Milestones**—individuals below will be receiving their recognition pins.

- **500 Hours:** Esther Retish, Barbara Robinson, Angela Murphy, Priscilla White
- **1,000 Hours:** Jeff Koepp, Jackie Wellborn, Emil Rinderspacher
- **2,000 Hours:** Jeffrey Smith

**Volunteer Anniversary Milestones** were reached by those listed below and they will be receiving their recognition Certificates & gift.

- **15 Years Of Service:** Katy Carlson, Margaret Hibbs, Carolyn Murphy
- **20 Years Of Service:** Beth Fisher, Ramona McGurk
- **25 Years Of Service:** Marilyn Kempnich

**Lifetime Master Gardeners** requirements (10 years of service as MG and 1,500 service hours or more) completed by the following and they will be receiving recognition certificates:

- **Jeffrey Smith**

YOU ALL made an AMAZING impact during the year 2020! You should be very proud of what you accomplished especially during an exceedingly difficult year!

JCMG 2020 year-end notes:

- 3,140 volunteer hours reported
- 508 education hours reported
- For a total of 3,648 hours committed including ~23 Core project areas. And JCMGs were 4th in Iowa for total reported hours!
- 6 students completed their first year of hours
- 8 JCMGs reached milestones of 500/1,000/2,000/3,000 hours
- 6 JCMGs reached Anniversary milestones of 15, 20, 25, or 30 years
- 1 JCMG reached Lifetime Master Gardener status

With great admiration, recognition awards will be put in the mail soon and we will work hard to find a way to celebrate again in person soon. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy. And enjoy your time on home horticulture projects.



**FREE! Project GREEN**

# ***Open Gardens Weekend 2021***

**July 10-11**

**Saturday evening 5PM-8PM • Sunday morning 10AM-1PM**

**25+ Iowa City & Coralville gardens  
open to the public for FREE!**

**Find joy and inspiration in gardens** from tiny plant-filled patios to impressive landscapes. Flowers & vegetables. Enjoy hidden backyard gardens never before opened to the public!

Pick up your FREE **Open Gardens Map** before or during the event from our sponsors (listed at right) or at **Ashton House** during the event.

Your attendance raises money to make our community more beautiful!

**For more information: [projectgreen.org](http://projectgreen.org)**



## ***Open Gardens Weekend 2021***

**FREE Admission**  
**No tickets necessary**

Local business sponsorship  
pays for the event **and** raises  
money for Project GREEN  
community beautification!

**Pick up your FREE  
\*Open Gardens Map\*  
from one of our sponsors  
(during business hours):**

**Cat Clinic of Iowa City  
City of Coralville  
Forever Green, Inc.  
Hills Bank  
HyVee  
Iowa City Landscaping  
Rindy, Inc.**

**Tallgrass Business Resources  
Urban Acres Real Estate**

**Thanks to our sponsors for  
making this event FREE!**



## **MG Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities**

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

**July/August 2021**

### **Backyard Abundance**

<http://backyardabundance.org/events>

**Saturday, July 3, 10 A.M. to 12 P.M.**

Forage Wild Edibles. Hickory Hill Park, South Shelter: 1439 East Bloomington St, Iowa City. Meander, munch, and learn to identify the most common wild edibles found in urban backyards and parks. We will create and sample simple delicious snacks and drinks by blending our foraged bounty with familiar veggies and culinary herbs. Recipes, informational handouts and book recommendations will be provided. Cost: \$5 per family (of up to 4, free to Backyard Abundance members). Register at <https://events.eventzilla.net/e/forage-wild-edibles-2138810452>.

**Saturday, Aug. 7, 9 to 10:30 A.M.**

Build a Toad House. James Alan McPherson Park (Formerly Creekside), 1858 7th Avenue Court, Iowa City. Make friends with toads and watch your garden flourish. During this class, you will learn how toads perform helpful chores in your landscape and what you can do to create an inviting habitat for them. Simple houses will be constructed and elaborate ones will be discussed. Yummy snacks are generously provided by New Pioneer Co-op. Cost: \$5 per family (of up to 4, free to Backyard Abundance members). Register at <https://events.eventzilla.net/e/build-a-toad-house-2138810455>.

### **Johnson County Conservation**

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

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

**Monday, July 5, 9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.**

FIND LGBTQ+ Creek Stomp. Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St NE, Solon. Join us in front of the round barn as we kick off our first creek stomp for the LGBTQ+ allies nature group. We'll learn a little about the creek and the current critters and fossils that inhabit the cool forest stream. As usual feel free to bring a light blanket and your picnic basket! Dress for the weather and the water (water shoes, sandals, rain boots) as we will be outside and in the water! To sign up for this event please register for a family slot here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a054ea4ad2babfa7-jccsummer1>.

**Monday, July 5, 9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.**

FIND LGBTQ+ Wetland Hike. Cedar River Crossing, 5473 Sutliff Rd NE Solon. Join us at the North Entrance as we kick off our first wetland hike for the LGBTQ+ allies nature group. We'll learn a little about the wetland. As usual feel free to bring a light blanket and your picnic basket! Dress for the weather and the water as we will be outside. To sign up for this event please register for a family slot here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a054ea4ad2babfa7-jccsummer1>

### **Johnson County-ISU Extension**

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

**Monday, Aug. 30, 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.**

Preserve the Taste of Summer 101. Johnson County Extension Office, 3109 Old Highway 218 S., Iowa City. Love that fresh garden produce but have more than you can eat? Preserve it! It's not difficult, but you do need to follow safe methods. You'll learn how to can, freeze, and dry foods safely at home. Cost: \$10. Register at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/preserve-taste-summer>.

### **New Pioneer Coop**

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

**Saturday, July 10, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.**

Monarch Fest: Hybrid Online & In-Person. Indian Creek Nature Center, 5300 Otis Rd SE Cedar Rapids. This year we are combining online and in-person elements to create a hybrid event, including virtual programs leading up to the day-of event, FREE caterpillar adoption, take-home crafts / activities, milkweed seed ball making for RAGBRAI riders, educational materials, free nectar plants, vendors and more. Caterpillars, crafts and nectar plants will all be in LIMITED SUPPLY. You will need to register ahead of time for caterpillars and crafts online and pick-up in-person the day of the event. Learn more and register at <https://indiancreeknaturecenter.org/gallery/monarch-fest>.

### **Project GREEN**

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

**Saturday, July 10, from 5 to 8 P.M.**

**Sunday, July 11, from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.**

Open Gardens Weekend. Find joy and inspiration in gardens ranging from tiny plant-filled patios to impressive landscapes — some never opened to the public before! Learn more at <https://projectgreen.org/events/open-gardens-weekend/>.

### **Seed Savers**

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

**Friday, July 16 and Saturday, July 17.**

41st Annual Conference. Virtual. Welcome to a weekend of virtual tours, workshops, panels, keynote presentations, and intimate virtual gatherings. We are excited this year to focus on the theme of community collaboration, and are especially excited to hear from long-time members and collaborative leaders about the work they are doing to create community around seed. Whether you are a first-time gardener, first time seed saver, or someone who has been to every one of our 40 summer conferences so far, we look forward to gathering virtually with you on July 16 & 17 for this year's SSE conference. Registration required, donation suggested. See schedule and register at <https://www.seedsavers.org/conference>.

## **Trees Forever**

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

### **Tuesdays, July 13, 27, Aug. 10, 24, 12 to 1 P.M.**

Tree Chat. Online. Tree Chat is your opportunity to get up to speed on all things trees and forests.

This informal Q&A is here to answer all your questions about trees, prairies, seedlings and everything under the sun! A different topic will be featured each session. Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96579008642?pwd=MXhRSUVyQk8yZkE3ZkxnNINHbVB3Zz09>

### **Wednesday, July 7, 12 to 1 P.M.**

Tree Health Update: Insects and Diseases. Online. Trees are a critical part of a healthy community but have been under attack lately. Join Tricia Bethke, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, to learn more about invasive insects, and diseases that threaten our trees. The presentation includes a discussion on how to identify, monitor, and manage non-threatening and threatening pests such as Kermes scale, two-lined chestnut borer, gypsy moth, spotted lantern fly, galls, and other unwanted tree pests.

Register at <https://treesforever.secure.force.com/treehealth>.

### **Tuesdays, July 15, 22, 29, 6 to 8 P.M.**

TreeKeepers. Online. The Trees Forever TreeKeepers class is designed for people who want to become more knowledgeable about urban tree planting and care and who wish to become a stronger voice for trees in their neighborhoods and communities. Specifically, participants will learn about Tree ID, biology, planting, maintenance and benefits. Additionally, the class will include discussions on urban and community tree issues, and volunteer recruitment and engagement. Cost: \$15. Register at <https://treesforever.secure.force.com/TreeKeepers>.

### **Monday, July 21, 12 to 1 P.M.**

History of the State Park System in America. Online. Americas State Park System hosts millions of visitors each year to enjoy the great outdoors and the unique ecosystems found throughout our 50 states. From the Florida everglades to the mountains of Alaska the diversity of our state parks is amazing. Join retired DNR Parks Manager, Jerry Reisinger on a fascinating presentation on the History of the State Park System in America. Register at

<https://treesforever.secure.force.com/ParkHistory>.

### **Monday, July 28, 12 to 1 P.M.**

Rise and Fall of Rustic Architecture in America's Parks. Online. Natural and readily available materials like stone and wood have been used for constructing buildings, cities, and civilizations going back to before the Roman Empire. Join Jerry Reisinger, retired instructor at Kirkwood Community College, for journey back in time to see the rise and fall of rustic architecture in America's parks. Register at <https://treesforever.secure.force.com/ParkArchitectureWebinar>.

### **Thursday, Aug. 19, 12 to 1 P.M.**

Creating a Buzz. Online. Trees Forever and partners are Creating a Buzz through our pollinator trainings that provide a comprehensive look at the importance of pollinators, the decline of pollinators, what pollinators need, and how you can attract pollinators to your farm. Register at <https://treesforever.secure.force.com/PollinatorWebinar>.



## Additional Resources/Event Opportunities

### 100 Grannies

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

### Bur Oak Land Trust

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

### Eastern Iowa Bird Watchers/IC Birds

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

### Iowa State Extension

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

### Linn County-ISU Extension

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



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#### **Mail can be sent to:**

Johnson County Extension Service  
Attn: Master Gardener Newsletter  
3109 Old Highway 218 S.  
Iowa City, IA 52246

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