



Johnson County Master Gardener

THYMES

March 2020

MG Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 7 P.M., Johnson County Extension Office. All MGs are invited to attend!

Thymes Deadline

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

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

FINAL REMINDER ➡ Sunday, March 22, Annual Winter Meeting & Potluck/2020 Seed Share

Johnson County Master Gardeners will host our annual Winter Meeting & Potluck Sunday, March 22 at the JC Extension Office and award Master Gardener certificates to interns who have completed their hours.



- ✓ 4–4:30 P.M. **Set-up**
- ✓ 4:30–5:30 P.M. **Social, Seed Share**
- ✓ 5:30 P.M. **Meal followed by JCMG awards**

JCMG Plant Sale & Flea Market **Needs Your Help**

BY EMIL RINDERSBACHER



Our 13th annual JCMG Plant Sale & Flea Market will be held this year on Saturday, May 9, from 8:30 A.M. to 12. This is our major fundraiser and proceeds support JCMG programs, operations, 4-H awards and Kirkwood Horticulture scholarships.

It's a big event and takes hundreds of volunteer hours to make it happen. This year we are asking all 130 Johnson County Master Gardeners and interns to help in some way by donating plants or flea market items and/or working the sale.

Here's how you can help:

Start seeds/houseplant cuttings. We need more vegetables and annuals at the sale. We can provide seeds if you need them. Houseplants are a big seller just let us know what you have and how many. Contact Darlene Clausen at

clausendarlene7@gmail.com if you can start seeds and/or provide houseplants.

Join the digging and potting teams. Last year Linda Schreiber and her volunteers dug and potted more than 1,200 plants for the sale. Digging starts as soon as the soil can be worked in early April. For more info, contact Linda Schreiber at lnschreiber@gmail.com.

Donate plants. We'll accept perennials, bulbs, tender perennials, grasses from yours, a neighbor's, a friend's or a relative's garden. We'll even dig them. Because we are planning a more detailed plant label this year, we need to know in advance what folks are donating. More information about donating plants will be included in the April Thymes. If you know now that you have plants to donate, contact Emil Rinderspacher at emil-rinderspacher@uiowa.edu.

Donate Flea Market items. We'll take any new or used garden equipment, tools, and yard art. Just be sure they are operational, clean and rust-free. We won't accept chemicals or fertilizers.

Work set up days and/or the sale. We need all hands on deck on the May 6, 7 and 8 set-up days and on the May 9 sale day. We plan to set up the building on May 6 at 6 p.m. and work all day May 7-8 receiving and processing sale items (pricing, labeling and staging). We need many volunteers on Sale Day so if you can't work on a weekday, you can help on Saturday. Later this month we will send out a SignUpGenius link where you can sign up for working sale set up and/or the sale days.

Advertise the sale to everyone you know. Share the info on social media. Tell friends, coworkers, family members, neighbors, about the sale.

You will receive an email later this month about volunteering for sale set up and the sale. If you have any questions about the sale, contact Emil Rinderspacher at emil-rinderspacher@uiowa.edu or by phone at 319-331-7451.

MG Plant Sale & Flea Market—What's in a Name?

Use The Right Terms the Right Way!

Cultivar versus Variety

By Cindy Haynes, Department of Horticulture, ISU

As a horticulturist, it is important that I use the right terms the right way (at least most of the time). Variety and cultivar are two terms often abused by gardeners and horticulturists. What's the difference, you ask? Quite a lot.

Both are part of the scientific name. Both appear after the specific epithet (second term in a scientific name). Both refer to some unique characteristic of a plant. However, this is where many of the similarities end.

Varieties often occur in nature and most varieties are true to type. That means the seedlings grown from a variety will also have the same unique characteristic of the parent plant. For example, there is a white flowering redbud that was found in nature. Its scientific name is *Cercis canadensis* var. *alba*. The varietal term "alba" means white. If you were to germinate seed from this variety, most, if not all would also be white flowering.

Cultivars are not necessarily true to type. In fact cultivar means "cultivated variety." Therefore, a cultivar was selected and cultivated by humans. Some cultivars originate as sports or mutations on plants. Other cultivars could be hybrids of two plants. To propagate true-to-type clones, many cultivars must be propagated vegetatively through cuttings, grafting, and even tissue culture. Propagation by seed usually produces something different than the parent plant.

Varieties and cultivars also have differently naming conventions. A variety is always written in lower case and italicized. It also often has the abbreviation "var." for variety preceding it. The first letter of a cultivar is capitalized and the term is never italicized. Cultivars are also surrounded by single quotation marks (never double quotation

marks) or preceded by the abbreviation "cv.". For an example of a cultivar of redbud, consider *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' (or *Cercis canadensis* cv. Forest Pansy) which has attractive dark purple spring foliage and pinkish-purple flowers.

Can a plant have both a variety and a cultivar? Sure. One good example is Sunburst Honeylocust. Its scientific name is *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* 'Sunburst'. The term "inermis" means without thorns and "Sunburst" refers to the bright golden spring leaf color.

In today's world of horticulture, cultivars are planted and used more than varieties. Yet we often still refer to a type of plant species as a variety instead of what is actually is a cultivar. Let's kick off the New Year by being more accurate and start using the term cultivar.

Links to this article are strongly encouraged, and this article may be republished without further permission if published as written and if credit is given to the author, Horticulture and Home Pest News, and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2008/2-6/CultivarOrVariety.html>

Project GREEN Winter Garden Forums

March 8, 2020

Project GREEN and ICPL will present the third of 2019 Second Sunday Winter Garden Forums "Making Landscapes Work for Wildlife" on Sunday, **March 8, from 2–4 P.M., at the ICPL**, 123 S. Linn Street. The forums are free and open to the



public and refreshments will be served.

Last year **Adam Janke** was unable to come to Iowa City and speak due to weather. In March, he will present "*Making Landscapes Work for Wildlife*." He will cover designs, methods and

plant materials that make your property a haven for wildlife you desire. He is an assistant professor and Extension wildlife specialist in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Iowa State University. Adam is a certified Wildlife Society associate wildlife biologist and earned degrees in wildlife conservation and management from Purdue University, (B.S.), Ohio State University, (M.S.), and South Dakota State University (Ph.D.).

My First Orchid

Easier to Grow And Maintain Than You Might Think!

By Sharon Rude

On cold and sunny Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, I had the opportunity to visit Reiman Gardens on the Iowa State University campus for an annual Orchid Fest. The event was hosted by the Central Iowa Orchid Society. This seemed like a great way to get a break from the cold winter weather and get inspired for warmer days ahead. After all, what could be better than seeing beautiful tropical blooms in early February?

Exotic orchids or 'Orchidaceae' in a variety of species and colors were on display. The Hughes Conservatory, is the balmy, glass house at the end of the primary conservatory complex. It features a lush, tropical collection of colorful and rare plants, also included a large and colorful display of a variety of orchids. Orchids of all shapes, sizes and colors were interspersed among ferns and amaryllis, hanging from baskets above and growing in notches on the sides of trees in the Conservatory. Orchids were also in the planters, which line the main hallway of the complex. The Central Iowa Orchid



Society also staffed a booth for Q & A about orchids, providing valuable insight on the care and growing of orchids.



A variety of orchids were for sale, ranging in price from \$15 to \$100. They varied in size from petit and dainty to about 18 inches tall with large 3-inch blooms, in all different blossom colors and splashes of speckles. It seemed like no two orchids were alike.

After being introduced to the care of orchids a few years ago at the JCMG Education

Sunday at the Extension Office, orchids seemed to be much easier to grow and maintain than I had ever thought. Rather than fussing over the need for a special environment to grow orchids, I learned they are actually very low maintenance and can tolerate some neglect. I felt confident I could make a small investment in my first orchid.



I kept the orchid in the warmth of the front seat of my car on the way home, instead of in the trunk away from enough heat. After all, my car said it was 18 degrees outside. After getting my orchid home, I thought it might be a good idea to do a little research on my new “houseplant.” Unfortunately, I did not find anything specific to orchids on the Iowa State website, so I visited the American Orchid Society’s (AOS) website at <http://www.aos.org/orchids/additional-resources/orchids-indoors.aspx>.

Their website offered a new grower of an orchid encouragement on how tough and hardy an orchid really is and some good advice to maintain an orchid so it not only survives, but thrives. While some orchids are notoriously fussy, many are easy to grow and adapt to the temperatures and light conditions found in the average home. They can perk up a home during the dreary months of winter. Peak orchid bloom time usually occurs between December and April. But orchids are no ordinary houseplant and do require a few differences from common houseplants like philodendrons, sansevieria, schefflera or ivy.

Orchids do not grow in soil and potting it in soil will actually kill it. Indoors, orchids grow in pots of bark chips, stones, peat moss or other loose medium to allow roots to stay aerated and which



permits water to drain quickly. The AOS website states “Nothing kills an orchid faster than letting it sit in a water-logged pot, since lack of oxygen will cause the roots to suffocate and rot. Orchids should be watered thoroughly once a week and allowed to dry slightly before watering again. Orchids are better equipped to withstand periods of forgetfulness than they are to be over-watered.”

Most orchids require plenty of light, preferably at least six hours a day. Some may tolerate varying amounts of light, but more light enhances flowering potential. Less light may inhibit orchids from flowering, but they still grow. The leaf color is an indicator of the amount of adequate light. Light or medium green leaves (grass green) indicate the plant is receiving sufficient light to bloom. The AOS website offers this light test: *Gauge light intensity with this simple hand/eye test: Put your hand six inches above the leaves and look at the shadows cast. A sharp-edged shadow means high light; a soft-edged shadow indicates medium to low light; no shadow at all means the light is insufficient for an orchid to flower. Southern- and*

eastern-facing windows work best for orchids; western windows can be too hot in the afternoon; and northern ones are usually too dark. Too much direct light causes leaves to sunburn—the leaves bleach out to white, ultimately dying and turning black—so it may be necessary to reposition plants as the seasons change.

To maintain healthy orchids and see blooms on a regular basis, the AOS website recommends applying diluted solution of 20-10-20 fertilizer once a week. Once a month water the orchid with plain water to flush out any accumulated fertilizer salts. If you are unsure about the amount of fertilizer, it is better to give less rather than more. A blossom-booster fertilizer may be used starting in the fall, when orchids are starting to form flower buds. Blossom-booster has a higher phosphorus and lower nitrogen ratio, such as a 10-30-20 formula. Many orchids are winter bloomers.

So wish me luck on my first orchid. Maybe a year from now, I'll be sharing a photo of my new orchid!

Smaller Trees for Home Landscapes

By Mary Lou Mayfield

I recently attended a seminar on smaller trees that fit better into smaller home gardens presented by Chuck Porto, Retail/Maintenance Manager and Horticulturist at Iowa City Landscaping and Garden Center. He included trees that are still small upon reaching maturity and slow-growing trees that can become quite large over time. Most of the smaller trees than 45-feet tall and 30-feet wide at maturity.

Maple species and varieties that he recommended included: Paperbark and Fireburst Maple (*Acer griseum*), Red Maples "Armstrong Gold" and "Redpointe," "Apollo" Sugar Maples (*Acer saccharum*), and "Three-flowered" Maple (*Acer triflorum*). Also Sunset Maples (*Acer truncatum x platanoides*) "Crimson," "Ruby," and "Urban."



He suggested two varieties of Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), "Autumn Brilliance" (best grown as a multi-stem tall shrub) and "Spring Flurry," which can be grown as a single-stem small tree.



Other smaller trees include varieties of Birch (*Betula*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus*), and our old friends the native Redbud (*Cercis*) and Dogwoods, including Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus spp.*). A smaller variety of European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) is "Tricolor." Among Crabapples (*Malus*), he recommended "Red Jewel (fruit)" and "Royal Raindrops." They both have persistent fruit (won't drop on ground). He included the Blackgum/tupelos (*Nyssa*) "Afterburner," "Gum Drop," and "Red Rage." Hop-Hornbeam (*Ostrya*) include "Ironwood" and "Autumn Treasure."

Other smaller deciduous trees include "Red Fox Katsuratree" (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*), "Tricolor" Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), "Princeton Sentry" *Ginkgo*, "Amur Maackia" (*Maackia amurensis*), "Sourwood" (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), "Kindred Spirit" English Oak (*Quercus robur*), "Frontier Elm" (*Ulmus*), and "Nannyberry" *Viburnum*.

Larger, slow-growing deciduous trees (eventually growing to over 45-feet) included: "Greencolumn" Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), "Streetkeeper" Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), "Espresso" and "Skinny Latte" Coffeetrees (*Gymnocladus dioica*), the "Crimsonspire" and "Streetspire," and "Regal Prince" varieties of English Oak (*Quercus robur*). The "Shawnee Brave" Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) has deciduous needles.

Among the evergreens, certain varieties of Spruce have a smaller or columnar growth, including "Columnar Norway Spruce", "Sherwood Compact" Spruce (both *Picea abies*), "Skinny Blue Jeans Spruce" (*Picea glauca*), and "Silver-Blue Spruce" (*Picea omorika*). Smaller pines include Stone Pines (*Pinus cembra*), "Bosnian" and "Emerald Arrow" Pines (*Pinus leucodermis*). "Hetz Wintergreen" is a smaller variety of *Arborvitae*.

When asked which trees were okay to plant under power lines, he recommended, "Don't." If you want a tree near the street, he recommended planting on private property and it's best to put a tree of columnar growth offset from the utility poles. Some columnar trees include "Armstrong Gold" Red Maple, "Cupressina" Columnar Norway Spruce, and "Skinny Blue Jeans" Blue Spruce.

Chuck Porto provided a fascinating program, including a slide show of almost 60 trees, and a spreadsheet detailing the species and variety names, common names, height, width, and ornamental features of each tree; for a copy of the spreadsheet, contact Mary Lou Mayfield, urthmothr@aol.com.

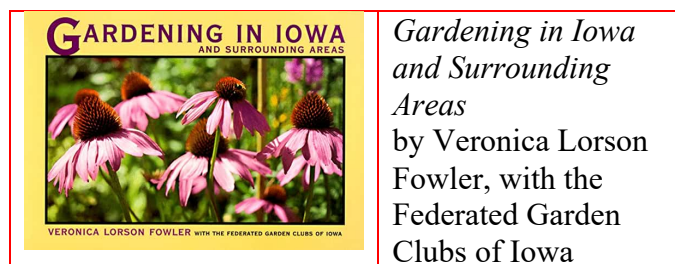
In response to questions from the audience, he said that:

1. Magnolia trees grow fast and may be larger than expected. (My research shows that "Loebner" Magnolias can get to be 30-feet high and 30-feet wide).
2. Trees that adapt well to the disturbed soil in a new construction include Elms, Crabapples, and Red Maples.
3. Some of the smaller native trees (Redbud, Dogwood, Serviceberry) are "understory" trees and do better on margins, where they can get partial shade.

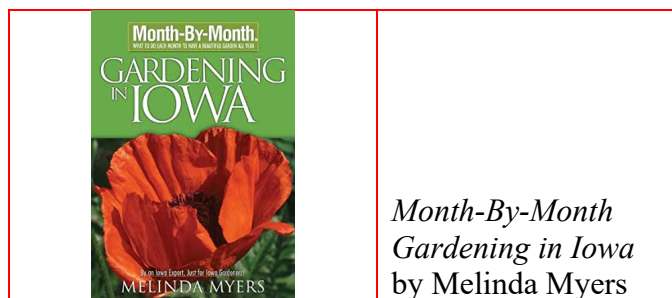
For more information on Iowa landscape trees, see: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Portals/idsnr/uploads/forestry/urban/RethinkingMaple.pdf>

From A Gardener's Bookshelf

BY MARY LYNNE HENSLEY



Gardening in Iowa and Surrounding Areas
by Veronica Lorson Fowler, with the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa



Month-By-Month Gardening in Iowa
by Melinda Myers

With spring just around the corner, it is indeed a wonderful time to think about gardening in Iowa! Whether you are new to gardening in Iowa or whether you are a seasoned Iowa gardener trying something new, there are two exceptional and enjoyable books written specifically about Iowa gardening that provide “Thymely” reminders and relevant resources for garden activities throughout the calendar year. I typically have both books off the bookshelf by now, for ready reference.

Gardening in Iowa and Surrounding Areas by Veronica Lorson Fowler with the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, is published by the University of Iowa Press and is dedicated to the creators of Reiman Gardens at Iowa State University. The author's goal is to make you a better gardener by providing useful information for the growing conditions and climate found in Iowa. Organized by month, each chapter begins with a handy checklist for that month's garden activities and tasks. Selected topics are addressed in further depth, and the text is accompanied by gardening tips provided by various Iowa Federated Garden Club members. The final chapter provides many resources, including a favorite one for keeping me focused on success: lists of the best plants for Iowa gardens—from bulbs, perennials, trees and shrubs to vines and ground covers.

Gardening in Iowa Month-By-Month™ by Melinda Myers, is organized into nine chapters by subject, with a month-by-month breakdown of activities and information for that particular aspect of gardening: Chapter 1 is about annuals; 2-bulbs, corms, rhizomes, & tubers; 3-herbs & vegetables; 4-lawns; 5-perennials & ornamentals. At our home, we often refer to chapter 6 on roses, as growing roses in Iowa has been one of our new gardening

adventures. The remaining chapters cover: 7-shrubs; 8-trees; and 9-vines & groundcovers. The appendices address many important topics and skills (such as pruning), and provide references and resources to help you achieve your gardening goals.

Each book provides lists of beautiful gardens across Iowa that you could enjoy visiting for even more inspiration; both books are available at the Iowa City Public Library. Without a doubt, these two delightful books have Iowa-specific gardening guidance to help you spring into action!

My Favorite Garden Tool

BY CHRIS SEDREL



As many of you know my favorite tool for gardening and many other tasks is my reciprocating saw. With the Master Gardener Plant Sale and Flea Market coming up in May, we will soon be doing “digs” to get plants to pot and sell. I have two reciprocating saws that I carry with me most of the time in the growing season. One is a cordless DeWalt that I have had for many years and the other is a newer corded Milwaukee. I use the corded one when I have a power source to save battery power. The brand doesn’t matter. An inexpensive one will work just fine.

The saws are great for digging clumps of plants and dividing them. Rather than digging and digging an entire monstrous clump of hostas and trying to pull off pieces to pot up, dividing can be so much easier with the saws. You don’t even need to take out the whole clump. I just slice off what I want, making a circular slice around the perimeter and cut across the large clump. The piece that comes out can be cut with the saw into smaller plantable sections. I then fill in the hole next to the parent plant with some soil. The hosta plantlets do great. It works for dividing daylilies, grasses and many other plants.

I use duller old blades for digging in soil and they work just fine. I generally use blades that are 8-inch long or more. I use my saws for tree

trimming and cutting entire medium size trees as well, where sharp blades are a must. It can be useful for cutting tree roots underground where you can’t use a chainsaw. I use my reciprocating saw much more than my chainsaws. Also, remember to clean the blades when going from job to job.

Less expensive corded reciprocating saws can be purchased for around \$20 while cordless ones are a little more expensive. You can find them at Menards, Lowes, Harbor Freight, and many other tool supply places.

| <div>  <div>MG Birthdays</div>  </div> | |
|---|-----------------|
| March 2020 | |
| 4..... | Reed Renneckar |
| 7..... | Tracy Edens |
| 8..... | Mahmooda Ahmad |
| 14..... | Mardi Rasmussen |
| 15..... | Carl Hensley |
| 19..... | Angela Murphy |
| 19..... | Dan Stence |
| 20..... | Laurie Canady |
| 22..... | Joanne Grey |
| 23..... | Barb Schintler |
| 23..... | Beth Gehring |
| 24..... | Torrie Masko |
| 26..... | Chris Parizek |

**2020 Johnson County Master Gardener
Continuing Education Sessions**
Johnson Co. Extension Office
3109 Old Highway 218 S., Iowa City, IA. 52246
319-337-2145
March 15, 2020

To Register: contact Shannon Bielicke, 319-337-2145, bielicke@iastate.edu



On March 15, 2020 from 1 to 4 P.M. at the Johnson County Extension Office, the Sixth Annual Continuing Education Day will take place. The educational sessions are free to MGs. MGs from surrounding counties who have completed their initial educational training are welcome to participate. Past sessions have been well-attended and with positive feedback we are encouraged to continue offering these educational sessions each spring. If there is a topic area that you would like to see covered or if you would like to speak, please contact Linda Schreiber, JCMG, as she will be looking for speakers for next year.

*****JCMG are asked to bring treats to share at Education Day!!**

| TIME | TOPIC |
|----------|---|
| 1–2 P.M. | Eric Miller —Iowa Master Naturalist—has led numerous groups on field trips that highlight the unique qualities of the Iowa prairie. As the only state that is completely tall grass prairie, Iowa’s landscape has been defined by its tall grasses and flowers. As gardeners, incorporating urban flower prairie species into the landscape will provide both enjoyment for the gardener and habitat for wildlife. Gold finches, hummingbirds and butterflies will take up permanent resident in your garden if you have prairie plants. |
| 2–3 P.M. | Jo Dillon —Linn County Master Gardener—will be providing gardeners with suggestions on how to please bees and butterflies. Our lives on planet Earth are intertwined with those many creatures, including pollinators like bees and butterflies. But pollinators and their habitats are disappearing. Learn about what is happening to pollinators, what steps are being taken to protect pollinators, and how homeowners and gardeners can provide much needed habitat. |
| 3–4 P.M. | Deb Walser —Linn County Master Gardener—will be helping gardeners prepare for one of the worst things that can happen to a garden, drought. What if we have another hot, hot summer like the summer of 2012? As gardeners, not planting is just not going to do it. We HAVE to plant! This talk will focus on how, what and when to water during drought. Drought tolerant plants will be highlighted during this presentation. |

MG Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

March 2020

Backyard Abundance

<http://backyardabundance.org/>

Saturday, March 21

2 to 3:30 P.M. Pruning Fruit Trees and Berry Bushes. 2040 Rochester Ct., Iowa City. Learn to properly prune fruit trees and berry bushes to maximize yields, promote health, and minimize diseases and pests. Class fee: \$10 (register two people for \$15).

Bur Oak Land Trust

info@BurOakLandTrust.org

Tuesday, March 3

6:30 to 9 P.M. Prairie Preview XXXVII. The Bohemian Hotel, 2525 N. Dodge St., Iowa City. Join Bur Oak Land Trust for our 37th annual Prairie Preview with environmental exhibitors on hand. Sarah Nizzi from the Xerces Society will give the keynote talk: *Integrating Nature into our Daily Lives and Why it Matters*.

Wednesday, March 11

5 to 9 P.M. Community Night at Short's Burgers Eastside, 521 Westbury Dr., Iowa City. 15% of ALL sales after 5 P.M. will go to Bur Oak Land Trust.

Eastern Iowa Bird Watchers/IC Birds

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

Wednesday, March 4

8 to 10 A.M. Kent Park Bird Walk. F.W. Kent Park, 2048 Hwy 6 NW, Oxford. Bird Walk with leader Rick Hollis. Meet at the Kent Park Conservation Education Center.

Saturday, March 7

6:30 A.M. to 2 P.M. Field Trip: Burlington Area Mississippi River. Target birds include ducks, geese, pelicans, Winter Wren and many more with Burlington local expert birder Chuck Fuller. This is an all-day trip, or take the option to return early about mid- afternoon. Meet Karen Disbrow at 6:30 at the Fin & Feather parking lot, 125 Hwy. 1 W, Iowa City; or at 8 A.M. at the Port of Burlington, 400 Front St., Burlington.

Tuesdays, March 17, 24 and 31

7 to 8:30 P.M. Beginning Birder Course. F.W. Kent Park Conservation Education Center, 2048 Hwy 6 NW, Oxford. There will be six Tuesday evening sessions. See schedule for more details. Call Kristen Morrow at (319) 645-1011 to register.

Wednesday, March 18

8 to 10 A.M. Kent Park Bird Walk. F.W. Kent Park, 2048 Hwy 6 NW, Oxford. Bird Walk with leader Rick Hollis. Meet at the Kent Park Conservation Education Center

Thursday, March 19

7 to 9 P.M. Bird Club Meeting, Environmental Education Center, 2401 Scott Blvd., Iowa City.

Saturday, March 21

Field Trip: Cone Marsh in Louisa County for Sandhill Cranes, migrating ducks and geese, and other water birds. Wear boots for walking in wet areas and bring a spotting scope if you have one. Meet at the Fin & Feather parking lot, 125 Hwy. 1 W in Iowa City.

Saturday, March 28

8 to 10 A.M. Kent Park Bird Walk. F.W. Kent Park, 2048 Hwy 6 NW, Oxford. Bird Walk with leader Rick Hollis. Meet at the Kent Park Conservation Education Center

Johnson County Conservation

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

salgreen@co.johnson.ia.us

Saturday, March 28

1 to 3 P.M. Healing Happens in the Garden, F.W. Kent Park Conservation Education Center, 2048 Hwy 6 NW, Oxford. Hosted by Backyard Abundance and Johnson County Conservation. In this class we will share practical techniques for working with nature in our gardens and in our own bodies to improve wellness and vitality. Taught by Mandy Dickerson, Herbalist at Plantchanters Garden. Fee: \$25. To register, email fowen@co.johnson.ia.us or call 319-645-1011. Registration required no later than Saturday, March 21.

Johnson County-ISU Extension

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

Wednesday, March 11

7 to 9 P.M. JCMG Steering Committee Meeting. Johnson County Extension, 3109 Old Highway 218 S, Iowa City. Master Gardeners welcome. Contact Shannon Bielicke at bielicke@iastate.edu or 319-337-2145.

Linn County-ISU Extension

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

Thursday, March 5

6:30 to 7:30 P.M. Expert Ed Spring Webinars. Linn County Extension, 383 Collins Road NE Suite 201, Cedar Rapids. Two webinars will be shown: Bring Kids in the Garden: State Master Gardener Coordinator Susan DeBlieck wants adults to help get youth outdoors. She'll share ideas for Master Gardener volunteer project sites and landscape design tips. Iowa's Botanists: Love native plants? Deborah Lewis is the curator of the Ada Hayden Herbarium. She'll present on early Iowa botanists, introduce the herbarium, and share her favorite native plants. Contact Jean Wilson at jlwilson@iastate.edu or 319-377-9839.

Thursday, March 19

6:30 to 7:30 P.M. A Talk with Jim Durbin. Linn County Extension, 383 Collins Road NE Suite 201, Cedar Rapids. Jim is a retired Rockwell employee who has been involved with the Cedar Rapids Audubon since 1989. He also volunteers with the Linn County Conservation Department doing bird classes and studies of species in some parks. Jim will be sharing his experience of planting trees, bushes and lots of flowers to attract birds and insects. Contact Jean Wilson at jlwilson@iastate.edu or 319-377-9839.

Tuesday, March 31

6 to 8:30 P.M. Creative Gardening Series. Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 5th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids. Join nationally known speaker Melinda Myers for an evening of garden knowledge. Contact Jean Wilson at jlwilson@iastate.edu or 319-377-9839.

If you missed the Linn County Winter Garden Fair, consider these Library Talks (all class times are 6:30 to 7:30 P.M.; contact Jean Wilson at 319-377-9839 or jlwilson@iastate.edu).

Monday, March 2

Cutting Gardens at Mt. Vernon Library

Tuesday, March 3

Bees, Birds, Bats & Butterflies...oh my! at Coggon Library

Native Bee Houses at Swisher Library

Thursday, March 5

Weed ID at Central City Library

Beginning Vegetable Gardening at Springville Library

Monday, March 9

Houseplant Care at Mt. Vernon Library

Tuesday, March 10

Heavenly Hydrangeas at Coggon Library

Straw Bale Gardening at Swisher Library

Thursday, March 12

Urban Gardening at Central City Library

Weaving Plant Collections into Your Garden at Springville Library

Monday, March 16

Heavenly Hydrangeas at Mt. Vernon Library

Tuesday, March 17

Perennials in 2020 at Coggon Library

Gentle Yoga for Gardeners at Swisher Library

Thursday, March 19

Native Bee House at Central City Library

Build Then Grow in a Hoop House at Springville Library

Monday, March 23

Quilt Gardens at Mt. Vernon Library

Tuesday, March 24

Life and Times of a Japanese Beetle at Coggon Library

Micro Prairie Gardening at Swisher Library

Thursday, March 26

Creating Black Gold Compost at Central City Library

Plan a Salsa Garden at Springville Library

Monday, March 30

Life and Times of a Japanese Beetle at Mt. Vernon Library

Project GREEN

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

Wanted: Your Garden. Open Gardens weekend will be June 27-28, 2020. Sharing your garden can make a difference and inspire other gardeners. Consider sharing your garden

<http://www.projectgreen.org>.

Sunday, March 8

2 to 4 P.M. Second Sunday 2020 Winter Garden Forums: Making Landscapes Work for Wildlife. Iowa City Public Library Meeting Room A, Iowa City. Prof. Janke, Extension wildlife specialist in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Iowa State University, will speak about designs, methods, and plant materials that make your property a haven for the wildlife you desire.

Seed Savers

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

Friday, March 20 or Saturday, March 21

10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. (Friday or Saturday), 1:30 to 3:30 P.M. (Saturday only). Apple Grafting Workshop. Heritage Farm, 3074 N Winn Rd., Decorah. Learn how to graft and care for apple trees in a half-day workshop. Discuss apple histories, practice apple propagation and take home three grafted trees to begin your very own orchard. Stay after or come early for an orchard/tree care workshop from 12:15 - 1:15 P.M. on the day of your grafting session. This workshop is included in your registration cost and covers caring for young apple trees, pruning, training, and general tree care. All sessions cover the same content. Cost: \$60. Register at <https://www.seedsavers.org/events>.

Trees Forever

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

Thursday, March 5

5:30 to 8:00 P.M. Family Forest Open House. Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Road, Peosta. Bring the whole family for this unique kid-friendly event. Join us for a FREE bowl of chili, kids' activities and presentations on a range of topics about improving forest health, including "Turning EAB into a Positive: Oak Regeneration," "Mushroom Growing and Log Selection," "Chainsaw Safety" and more. Our speakers will start presenting at 5:30 P.M. with each presentation lasting 20 minutes. Register at <http://www.treesforever.org/Events>.

Saturday, March 7

9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Backyard Forest Workshop. Hitchcock Nature Center, 27792 Ski Hill Loop, Honey Creek. Join us for an informative day in a great location to learn about forest health. Presenters will share how to spot an invasive plant, how they manage them at Hitchcock, how to care for the trees you want to keep, plus much more. There is a \$10 registration fee per person which includes a light meal. Register by March 2 at <http://www.treesforever.org/Events>.

100 Grannies

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

Monday, March 9

6:30 to 7:30 P.M. Barbara Schlachter Memorial Lecture Series: The Green New Deal Explained, Presented by Zach Gerwe. Iowa City Senior Center, 28 S. Linn St., Room 202, Iowa City.

Monday, March 16

6:30 to 7:30 P.M. Lecture Series Reversing Global Warming: Introduction to Drawdown. Iowa City Senior Center, 28 S. Linn St., Room 202, Iowa City. Presenters Virginia Melroy, and Deb Schoelerman, members of the 100Grannies and the Unitarian Universalist Society of Coralville, will present this workshop. See both the possibility of reversing global warming and the important role that you play, based on the findings of Project Drawdown, a comprehensive scientific study of 100 solutions that together could begin to reverse global warming by 2050.

Monday, March 23

6:30 to 7:30 P.M. Barbara Schlachter Memorial Lecture Series Let Us Now Praise Hellraisers. Iowa City Senior Center, 28 S. Linn St., Room 202, Iowa City. Presented by Jeff Biggers, an American Book Award-winning author, journalist and historian, and father of two wonderful IC climate strikers. He will discuss the role of resistance in environmental and climate justice movements, including today.

Tuesday, March 24

5:30 to 7 P.M. 100 Grannies Monthly Meeting at Trinity Episcopal Church, 320 E College St, Iowa City.

Monday, March 30

6:30 to 7:30 P.M. Barbara Schlachter Memorial Lecture Series: Systemic Change Needed. Iowa City Senior Center, 28 S. Linn St., Room 202, Iowa City. Presented by Stratis Giannakouros, the Director of University of Iowa Office of Sustainability with an MA degree in Environmental Politics and Policy.

Additional Resources/Event Opportunities**Iowa State Extension**

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

Check the website for information.

New Pioneer Coop

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

Check the website for information.



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