



Johnson County Master Gardener

THYMES

MG Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 7 P.M.; virtual meeting via WebEx 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 or Doug Geraets at mail to: dougrph@aol.com.

Please send news, volunteer opportunities, stories, pictures, gardening book reviews, etc., for the October issue by **Friday, Sept. 25**.

From ISU Extension and Outreach: No Hours Requirement in 2020

Iowa MG volunteer hours and continuing education hours requirements have been waived for both volunteers and interns in 2020 due to Covid-19. While many of you have found ways to volunteer while socially-distanced, membership renewal will not be contingent on members meeting the yearly minimum hours requirements. [See the letter from Dr. John Lawrence here.](#)

If you have decide to complete volunteer hour and education hours this year we ask you to please take the time to log your hours by signing into the [Volunteer Reporting System here](#). This will help us to accurately document the efforts made during this unprecedented time. *For interns working towards their 40 hours certification requirement, hours completed in 2020 will be carried over and added to hours in 2021; certification will be awarded upon further review.* Thank you for your continued dedication while keeping yourself and others safe.

Approved Projects Update (continued from July/August)



Ecumenical Tower Gardens



After a year of intense plant redistribution, adding new plants and features, along with heavy mulching the ET gardens are coming alive. Blooms were early and robust and now the summer perennials are coming on. Heat tolerant natives can be found in these gardens, as well as hardy non-native cultivars.

The gardens are in fairly good shape. Weekly tasks include: 1) watering that is primarily handled by one of the building residents, and 2) weeding. An unidentified invasive vine has infested the western bed alongside the senior center and our old friend Creeping Charlie is everywhere.

Anyone who has interest in working on this core project please contact me (michael-hesseltine@uiowa.edu) to review tasks done or stop by anytime to weed the gardens. Please keep me updated with hours and activities when you have worked independently. The building residents and I appreciate your help. If you are interested in helping plan garden activities, please let me know.

Downtown City Gardens

Downtown City Gardens is enjoying assistance from a great group of active interns—many hands make the work go quickly! The Dottie Ray Garden along Melrose Avenue was replanted with Arctic Fire™ dogwoods, Rudbeckia and summer annuals. A grant from the Iowa City Downtown District, provided Karl Forester grasses for N. Linn Street that Master Gardener volunteers planted. We also planted sweet potato ivy, coleus, salvia and gladiola bulbs in gardens at Old Capitol Parking Garage.

Summer activities included weeding and deadheading roses and daylilies in gardens along Clinton Street and city parking garages. Thanks to all who have contributed volunteer hours!

Demonstration Garden

Despite this being 2020, the year no one ever wants to relive again, the garden is thriving! The garden is under the direction of Chris Sedrel and Ann Ruppenkamp this year.

We have had an abundance of produce to donate to the food pantries in the area. We have also had a tremendous turnout of MG volunteers tending the garden, watering and harvesting produce to make this year a good one. I do miss it and must say it looks fantastic, you should stop out and see for yourself—Past Project Leader Sharon Jeter.

Plant Sale & Flea Market

Think Spring 2021 as you garden this fall!

As you work in your gardens this fall, start making a list of what plants you can contribute to the 2021 Master Gardener Plant Sale & Flea Market next spring.

Interest in gardening has exploded during this pandemic and I'm sure there will be a great deal of interest in our sale next spring. Of course, we hope we'll be able to have an in-person sale but we're

developing a backup plan for an online sale just in case.

Raptor Center

FYI to those interested: the Raptor Center is closed due to storm damage and our Raptor Center gardens remain in a state of flux until the staff is able to meet and discuss their vision.

Speakers Bureau

The JCMG Speakers Bureau was invited to participate in the Senior Center's summer Zoom Gardening Club. Over the past two months, we have talked about gardens, gardening, pests, diseases, harvesting and enjoyed several guest speakers.

Lucy Hershberger, Forever Green, Inc.; Chuck Porto, Iowa City Landscaping; Fred Meyer, Backyard Abundance; and Paul Rost, Earl May Iowa City, gave great informational talks and answered many questions from the group. The group will continue into the fall in its Zoom format.

JCMG on Facebook & Youtube!!

There's no need to be a social media fanatic to follow Johnson County Master Gardeners. You can follow JCMG's Facebook posts on our members' only webpage. Scroll down to see what administrators have posted at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/content/johnson-county-master-gardener-members-only>

Also on our webpage, just below the Facebook posts, JCMG can view educational videos on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com). This information is brought to you by our helpful Johnson County Extension Office staff. They are helping us keep connected during these socially-distanced times brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and we appreciate their efforts.

My New Favorite Gardening Tool

BY CHRIS SEDREL

A few of you have had occasion to try out my new favorite tool because I constantly thrust it into the hands of MGs that end up working at the various sites I work at. It could be at Plum Grove or the Demo Garden or other places at the Fairgrounds. This tool was not inexpensive which may explain why I am constantly and perhaps annoyingly trying to convince other gardeners how wonderful it is.

The tool is called The Basic Garden Tool (BGT). Several MGs have asked where they can purchase this tool. It is available on Amazon.com for \$68.90 with no shipping charge or at BasicGardenTool.com for \$65.87 plus shipping. It comes in lime green, hot pink, or sunset orange and weighs 2.5 lbs.

When you first look at it you might think that it is simply “push-me pull-me” tool, but it does more than that. It digs, it hoes and it weeds. It is shaped in a “v” and is highly sharpened so that it cuts in both directions, can dig straight down to dig roots out and can be used point down to dig rows for planting. It does take effort to push and pull, but it clears an area very quickly and for me it saves time. This tool comes with different lengths according to the user’s height.

It is made of carbon spring steel. The tool can be sharpened to keep it working at its best. After each use clean the metal parts and wipe with an oily rag. Alternately, you can wipe dry with a clean rag, and then spray lightly with a penetrating oil such as WD40®. Once each garden season, rub linseed oil into the wooden handle to help preserve it.

I still love my reciprocating saw, but this tool has been great to use!



Growing Something Different in the Garden

Grow something different and be prepared to be surprised!

BY LINDA DIGGELMANN

With a 30' by 70' garden space, my sister and I have room to experiment growing a different vegetable each year. All of our selections have grown well but sometimes surprised us with their characteristics.

Cilantro—When Mexican food became popular so many years ago, we contemplated making our own salsa. Salsa needs cilantro, the leafy green part of coriander—right? A 10-foot row was planted and grew robustly. Harvest time arrived and we were looking forward to our home canned salsa. However, we found the taste of the cilantro to be rather revolting. It tasted like soap. Turns out our taste issue is genetic. We have a variation in a group of olfactory-receptor genes that causes us to perceive the taste of cilantro differently than most people. Julia Child also found the taste of cilantro revolting. We gave away as much of the cilantro as the neighbors cared to have.

Tomatillo (Mexican Husk Tomato)—Tomatillo looked interesting to try to grow. A part of the nightshade family, this plant has small, round greenish fruit that is surrounded by an inedible, paper-like husk. When the fruit is ripe and mature, it splits the husks. Tomatillos are used in Mexican and Central-American green sauces. I started the seeds indoors and planted four plants, which produced a great crop. We determined the taste was a bit too tart for us so the tomatillo became a food source for hundreds of little bees.

Artichoke—My sister has friends in California who grow artichoke in their yard so we tried it in our garden growing it from seed I started indoors in March. This plant is member of the Asteraceae family of plants, a group that includes thistles. You eat the edible flower buds which are harvested before the flowers open. Our plant provided enough product for a taste for a handful of people. This plant is a heavy feeder and takes up a lot of garden space in

comparison to the amount of edible produce it produces.

Black-Eyed Peas—Since my sister's husband likes black eyed peas, we planted a short row and waited until harvest. My brother-in-law was anticipating cooking the black-eyed peas with a ham bone. Apparently, the black-eyed pea is cultivated around the world. It is a legume and adds nitrogen to the soil and has a high nutritional value. The plants were a good nectar source for pollinators. Harvesting was a challenge. The pods were spirals and it was really difficult to get the peas out of the pod. It is easier to just buy a can of black-eyed peas at the store.

Collards—The neighbor over the fence behind our garden was raised in the south and told us stories of the food his mother cooked. He was missing eating cooked collards; therefore, that was our next vegetable to investigate. Collards, a green leafy vegetable, are very nutritious, like cool weather, and are a member of the cabbage family. The upright leaves can reach 18-inches in length. One leaf makes a good sized serving. Our plants were prolific so all the neighbors had an opportunity to sample the taste.

Queen Anne's Pocket Melon—A few years ago, we had the opportunity to tour the Gardens of Monticello near Charlottesville, Virginia. These gardens were first designed by Thomas Jefferson. The Garden Club of Virginia was asked to restore the flower garden, fruit orchard, and a vegetable garden following Jefferson's extensive notes on his original planting as well as his instructions. Queen Anne's Pocket Melon was one of the unusual plants we saw. This highly aromatic, orange fruit is about the size of a baseball. It is highly aromatic and the ladies would carry this fruit in their pockets to mask body odor. Although the fruit is quite attractive, we found the aroma to be a bit overpowering and will stick to deodorant.

It has been fun to grow something different in the garden! We are already looking for a challenge for next year!!

Reviving a Compost Pile

BY HELENE DONTA

At times, when time is short and temperatures are hot, it is tempting to pile dead plant material in a heap and hope it will turn to compost in due time. Months or maybe years later, a large pile of material sits in various states of decomposition and eventually needs to be dealt with.

As part of my MG training, I endeavored this summer at Plum Grove Gardens to turn such a mighty pile back into an organized three pile compost system. This pile was about 10-ft x 5-ft x 7-ft tall—an example of slow or cold composting. Cold composting occurs when a mix of organic material with sufficient moisture is allowed to sit for many months. Cold composting requires little effort but many types of weeds and seeds will survive in the pile and it will take a long time to yield compost. The chosen shady location at Plum Grove for this pile helped to maintain adequate moisture levels required to maintain a slow state of decomposition.

Step one was to remove the top layer of material that was either partially or not decomposed. A metal rake, spade, pitch-fork, and heavy gloves were good tools for this purpose (Fig. 1). I found in the pile many things that don't belong (Fig. 2). These included inorganic metal and plastic garden tags, wires, plastic bags, landscape fabric, and even a broken shovel, all of which made it difficult to work with and turn the pile. What joy it was to find out—once the top layer of the giant pile was raked back—there indeed was a nice two-bin wooden composting structure built underneath it (Fig 3).



Fig. 1. Useful tools for managing compost



Fig. 2. Things that don't belong in a compost pile

There were also organic materials that interfered with managing the pile. Bulbs and weeds with invasive roots had grown into the rich material. Cold composting does not get hot enough to sterilize weeds, seeds, and bulbs, so it is best to avoid placing anything in the compost bin that you don't wish to weed out the following year in the garden. Diseased plants, plants treated with pesticides and insecticides, and plants with thorns should also be disposed of elsewhere. Large branches and sticks also caused difficulty manipulating the pile and were removed. Large woody stems were cut up into smaller sections.

Step two was to dig down to the bottom layer of the mound to discover the beautiful rich dark compost hidden underneath. This rich material was dug out and transferred to a third separate pile, which will be easy to get to in the late summer and fall as gardens are harvested, amended, and put to rest until spring. Partially decomposed material was then moved to the second bin to make room for new material in the first bin (Fig. 4). The partially decomposed pile, which had stalled and was mostly carbon rich, was layered with greener, more nitrogen rich material.



Fig. 3. Unveiling the compost bins



Fig. 4. The finished three pile composter (L to R: finished compost, partially decomposed, starting pile)

Finally, step three will be to initiate a warmer and, therefore, faster decomposition process. Warm composting produces a higher quality compost in half the time but requires more effort. There are a lot of variables including carbon to nitrogen ratio, moisture, aeration, weather, type of micro-organisms present, and type of material used. For the average composter, an empirical rule of thumb is to layer 4-5 inches of "brown" material with 2-3 inches of "green" material, make sure the material stays moist but not too wet, aerate periodically (easily done by "relayering" or "fluffing" the pile with a pitch-fork), and layer a bit of "starter" compost rich with micro-organisms to kick off decomposition. The rate of decay will depend on how often the compost pile is tended to. Once the partially composted material in the second bin is finished, it will be important to keep the process going by

transferring that material to the finished pile and using this rich compost in the gardens!

Many thanks to Darlene Clausen and to my son-in-law Garrett for helping me on this project and of course for my ISU MG training last fall!

1. https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/files/page/files/week_5_lesson_-_composting_english.pdf
2. <https://www.compostmagazine.com/compost-carbon-nitrogen-ratio/>

Square Foot Gardening

by Sharon Rude

For the 2014 annual county fair, the theme for the old Demonstration Garden location was to demonstrate different gardening techniques. Examples included a salsa garden, a beginner's garden, vertical garden, a smoothie garden, things you didn't know you could eat garden and square foot gardening. For the square foot garden, three 4-foot x 4-foot sections were planted with beets, beans, cabbage, carrots, celery, corn, cucumbers, kohlrabi, lettuce, marigolds, onions, peppers, Swiss chard, and tomatoes. A lot of variety can be planted in a small amount of space. I read Mel Bartholomew's book *Square Foot Gardening*, to research the technique and prepare to plant the square foot area.

Mel Bartholomew explains in his *Square Foot Gardening* book it is a new way to garden in less space with less work, and saves time. Mel determined it eliminates most of the weeding, and a lot of the watering in 1/5 of the space you may now be using. You eliminate soil compaction by never walking on the soil, but rather you walk on the paths between the raised beds. It limits the growing area to squares (Fig 1). Gardening effort is 10% of what is normally spent on row gardening since you can eliminate the need to thin seedlings by limiting the number of plants with single seed planting, planting fewer seeds at mature spacing, and no overplanting. It limits the growing area to squares; and saves time and space. You can experiment with

succession planting and stagger plantings to allow for a gradual and continuous harvest. Soil prep is quick and simple because of the space saving. You will get the same amount of harvest as a single row conventional garden, but in 20 per cent of the space, which in turn results in cost savings, sunlight, tools, work, water, and soil amendments. It is low maintenance because the work is easier. Another helpful publication is ISU Reiman Gardens RG111 - Therapeutic Gardening: Creating Raised Bed Planters available at <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/search/content/RG111>. This publication provides things to consider when creating a raised bed like the location, size, pathways, materials, soil and plants.



Fig. 1. Building raised bed with leaves & topsoil

The concept of a square foot garden is you plant the number of seeds or plants per square foot according to their mature plant spacing. For example, a mature tomato or pepper requires 12 inches of space, beans need 6 inches of space, and radishes need 3 inches of space. Therefore, only 1 tomato or pepper can be planted in a single square foot, or 8 pole beans or 16 radishes.

While a square foot garden may or may not produce enough for food donations, it will produce enough bounty (Fig 2) to eat fresh from the garden for an entire growing season—multiple harvests of spring mix lettuce, enough cucumbers to eat fresh and make a dozen quarts of pickles, twice-a-week

picking green beans for dinner, peppers to freeze for use during the winter months, and enough tomatoes for fresh eating and salsa or pasta sauce, along with the herbs of your choice.



Fig. 2. Harvest of cucumbers & carrots

In fall of 2015, I decided it was time to down-size our family vegetable garden in my backyard since we became empty nesters. I used what I had learned from the Demonstration Garden and the square foot garden to create my own square foot garden.

Early in the spring, I use graph paper to map out the garden. I take companion planting into consideration to determine what will be planted where to insure neighboring plants will grow well together. Plants have likes and dislikes. Certain plants benefit each other when grown together. Some plants use more essential nitrogen while others use less. Louise Riotte's book *Carrots Love Tomatoes* is a great resource for finding out what grows well together. For example, tomatoes like cabbage, carrots, celery, onion, mint, and garlic, but does not like corn or fennel. Cucumbers like beans, corn, lettuce, onions, peas, kohlrabi, radish, marigolds, nasturtium, but not strong herbs or potatoes. Some plants repel insects or inhibit growth of other plants. Taller plants are planted to the north side with shorter plants to the south side so the taller plants do not shade the smaller plants. Succession planting can also be considered by staggering plantings to allow for continuous harvest. Replant seeds in warm

August soil for an extended fall harvest like lettuce, beets, and radishes. Consider warm season vegetables like beans, corn, cucumber, eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes versus cool season vegetables like beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, chard, kale, lettuce, peas, radishes, and spinach.

Spring is also a good time to add compost to the garden to replenish it, same as you would for a row garden. Coarse vermiculite and peat moss may also be added to the soil as these will help hold water.

I also incorporate vertical gardening—vertical support structures for cucumbers, peas and pole beans to climb on. This is a great way to increase gardening space without using soil surface space. Inter-planting can also be used to save space, by matching a slow growing large vegetable with a faster growing smaller vegetable. Larger vegetables require a larger space between plants to accommodate their mature size, while smaller vegetables can be grown between the larger plants, and will be mature before the larger plants shade them.

When I'm ready to plant, I follow the seed packet directions, but at the thinning spacing. That eliminates the need to thin seedlings as they are sprouting. I use twine to mark the square grids so I can visualize each square foot (Fig 3). Wood slats or old window blinds do the trick as well. Seeds and plants are rotated to different squares each year to add variety and see what grows best in any particular location. Each year is an experiment. Due to COVID-19 and restrictions on businesses early in the spring and summer, I decided to experiment more with direct sowing seeds which I had from prior Seed Share events and stored in the back of the refrigerator in a glass quart jar. I used these seeds in my square foot raised bed this year as well as various containers. I have green beans growing in flower pots, next to a flower pot of marigolds to stave off the rabbits.



Fig. 3. Example of square feet marked out with twine.

I also experimented with a 3-Sisters garden in a wine barrel (Fig 4). This type of garden is a form of companion and inter-planting. Beans add nitrogen to the soil that corn and squash use to grow. I planted corn, bush green beans, and gourds (a slight variation of the standard combination since I used leftover seeds). I also prefer the bush-type Blue Lake green beans versus climbing pole beans. Seeds were replanted a few times due to critters (specifically squirrels) digging up seeds. After three replantings, I covered the barrel with chicken wire in order to give the seeds a chance to sprout. The corn was snapped off by the recent Derecho, but is starting to regrow. I have picked green beans multiple times and supplemented them with the green beans from the square foot garden to make enough for a meal. The gourd blossoms are open every morning and I look forward to seeing the various types of gourds which may develop. This was another fun experiment and I will probably try it again, using the chicken wire with the first seed planting next year.



Fig. 4. Three-Sisters planting in a ½ wine/whiskey barrel

| <div>  MG Birthdays  </div> | |
|---|-----------------|
| Sept. 2020 | |
| 1 | Cynthia Pickett |
| 4 | Dorothy Fowles |
| 5 | Gwen Elling |
| 7 | Doug Parsons |
| 7 | Amy Blessings |
| 8 | Marilou Gay |
| 8 | Sue Kloos |
| 9 | Sherlyn Flesher |
| 20 | Tracy Hufford |
| 20 | Jane Zukin |
| 21 | Ester Retish |
| 22 | Holly Hotchkins |
| 28 | Cindy Parsons |

MG Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

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

September 2020

100 Grannies

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

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 7 to 8 P.M.

Regular Monthly Meeting. Now being held via Zoom. Members: Please look for email from 100grannies for details. Contact: 100granniesiowacity@gmail.com.

Backyard Abundance

<http://backyardabundance.org/events>

Fridays, Sept. 4 and Sept. 18, 10:30 to 11:30 A.M.

Garden Guru at the Edible Classroom. Facebook Live Video. Enjoy your lunch with a virtual visit to the Edible Classroom.

- Sept. 4: Sowing Fall Greens
- Sept. 18: Wellness in the Garden

Visit the Edible Classroom at Robert A Lee Community Center after each event to see what was done, pick up free publications, tend the garden and harvest food. Please make sure to follow social distancing and hygiene guidelines. Link to event details:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/316138866021331/>.

Sundays, Sept. 6 and Sept. 20, 3 to 4 P.M.

Garden Guru at Wetherby Park Edible Forest. Facebook Live Video. Join us (virtually) at this mature edible forest for the following sessions:

- Sept. 6: Aronia Herbal Syrup Making
- Sept. 20: Fungi in the Garden

Visit the Wetherby Park Edible Forest after each event to see what was done, pick up free publications, tend the garden and harvest food. Please follow social distancing and hygiene guidelines to keep yourself and your community safe. Event link:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/279428103057345/>.

Wednesdays, Sept. 9 and Sept. 23, 4:30 to 5:30 P.M.

Garden Guru at Creekside Park Edible Forest. Facebook Live Video. Learn about Iowa City's newest edible forest in a virtual format.

- Sept. 9: Edible Mushrooms for the Garden
- Sept. 23: Chop-and-drop with Comfrey Leaves

Visit Creekside Park Edible Forest after each event to see what was done, pick-up free publications, tend the garden and harvest food. Please follow social distancing and hygiene guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Link to event details:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/963068434142476/>.

Eastern Iowa Bird Watchers/IC Birds

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

Thursday, Sept. 24, 7 to 8:30 P.M.

Bird Club Meeting via Zoom. Details coming soon.

Johnson County Conservation

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

salgreen@co.johnson.ia.us

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

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6:30 to 7:30 P.M.

Thursday, Sept. 17, 12:30 to 1:30 P.M.

Solarize Johnson County Virtual Solar Power Hour. Join us for a virtual Solar Power Hour from the comfort of your couch! Solarize Johnson County is an education and group purchasing program for residential solar. Offered by Johnson County, nine partner cities, and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA), homeowners throughout Johnson County and West Branch, Iowa, may participate in this program to help pool their buying power to secure significant discounts that make installing solar more affordable for your home or property. In this webinar, you'll learn more about the program, hear from solar experts, and speak with the competitively-selected solar installer Eagle Point Solar about whether solar might be right for you. Visit

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/johnsoncountyconservation/events/> for information and registration links for each date.

Seed Savers

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

Mondays, Sept. 14 through Oct. 26, 6 P.M.

Virtual Seed School. Zoom. Join gardeners from all over the country to learn the most important seed-saving techniques from Seed Savers Exchange staff and previous Seed School graduates. This course will take place over seven weeks, each featuring a new topic and speaker. Zoom webinars will be presented live each Monday at 6:00 PM Central Time from Sept. 14 until October 26. Participants will receive recordings of each webinar within the week should they not be able to attend the live broadcast. In addition to the webinars, Virtual Seed School will feature access to a shared Google drive of educational content, the opportunity to participate in live discussion, exclusive Heritage Farm Collection seeds, and a copy of The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving. Registration: \$25. See <https://www.seedsavers.org/virtual-seed-school> for details and registration.

Trees Forever

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

Wednesdays, Sept. 2 and Sept. 9, 6 to 8 P.M.

TreeKeepers. Go to Webinar. The Trees Forever TreeKeepers program 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. Participants in TreeKeepers will take part in hands-on and classroom presentations led by experienced Trees Forever staff members and other invited tree experts. All training will incorporate opportunities for practicing skills learned. After completion of the TreeKeepers program, participants will be equipped with the knowledge of how to maintain our urban trees and plant trees for future generations. Trained TreeKeepers volunteers will be additional “eyes and ears” for trees in their neighborhoods and can share their knowledge with neighbors and key influencers. Each class will also have a volunteer service component. Help the trees in your community thrive by becoming a Trees Forever TreeKeeper! Cost: \$15. Register at <http://www.treesforever.org/treekeepers>.

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 12 to 1 P.M.

Creating a Backyard Buzz Webinar. What can you plant in your backyard to create pollinator habitat? Trees Forever helps answer this question in a webinar aimed at homeowners. Not everyone has a few acres to dedicate to pollinator habitat, but “islands” of habitat throughout our communities are vital for a sustainable future. Find out you can help. Register at <http://www.treesforever.org/backyardbuzz>.

Thursday, Sept. 24, 4 P.M. at Memorial Grove at Squaw Creek Park in Marion

Saturday, Sept. 26, 1:30 P.M. at Memorial Grove at Whiterock Conservancy in Coon Rapids

Memorial Tree Planting and Reception. Join us at one of two receptions to recognize all of the individuals honored or memorialized through a donation to the Trees Forever Foundation, the Granting a Better Tomorrow Endowment Fund and planned gifts. Together we will plant a few trees in our memorial grove. We invite friends and family members to write notes to their loved ones and place the notes in the soil before the trees are planted. As we think of the future and the new life being planted, we’ll take a moment to reflect and thank those who have created this legacy. Your generosity is a testimony to a brighter, better tomorrow.

Additional Resources/Event Opportunities

Bur Oak Land Trust

www.buroaklandtrust.org/events/

Iowa State Extension

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

Johnson County-ISU Extension

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

Linn County-ISU Extension

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

New Pioneer Coop

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

Project GREEN

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



The Johnson County Master Gardener Thymes is published monthly, except January and August. It is distributed under the auspices of Iowa State University.

Mail can be sent to:

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