MG Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 13, 7:00 pm; Johnson County Extension Office. There is no Steering Committee meeting in December. All are invited to attend!

Thymes Deadline
Thymes information should be sent to Jan Denehy at janice-denehy@uiowa.edu Please send news, volunteer opportunities, stories, pictures, etc., for the February issue by Monday, January 25.

Save the Date: MG Winter Potluck
The MG Potluck will be held Sunday, March 13 at the fairgrounds (Bad weather backup date April 10th). More information will appear in the February Thymes.

Save the Date: Winter Gardening Fair
Saturday, March 5th, Coe College, Cedar Rapids http://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/news/winter-gardening-fair-2015

Project Green 2016 Winter Garden Forums
Presented by Project GREEN and the Iowa City Public Library. Programs are in Meeting Room A at the library, 2–4 p.m. Free to all, refreshments and door prizes!

Sunday, January 10, 2016
Chuck Porto: “Something Old, Something New: Trees, Shrubs, and Evergreens You Didn’t Know You Needed.” Chuck, retail manager at Iowa City Landscaping, will reintroduce you to the best of the old standards and introduce you to the best of the “new” plants on the market, focusing on those that will add diversity, multiseason interest, and wildlife attractions to your landscape.

Sunday, February 14, 2016
Jonathan Poulton will discuss his love affair with daylilies. A University of Iowa professor emeritus, Jonathan has developed a collection of registered daylilies and created several thousand seedlings by hybridization since 2006. He will explore the origins of modern daylilies from Hemerocallis species native to Asia, and describe hybridizers’ efforts to create the “holy grail” of daylilies—a true blue cultivar.

Sunday, March 13, 2016
David Cavagnaro will present “Where Our Food Comes From,” an around-the-world-in-eighty-minutes look at the origins of our major food crops. A decade of international travel as a scientific field worker, educational tourism leader, and photography instructor expanded his knowledge of natural history and his opportunities to photograph his environment. He has published five books, and his work has appeared in nature calendars and magazines, including Audubon, National Wildlife, Natural History, Ranger Rick, and Life.
Welcome MG New Interns

The new class of MG interns have just completed their course work and projects. In the next year they will be looking forward to working with MGs in their many projects as they earn hours for certification. Welcome, Mahmooda Ahmad, Susan Ahrens, Lindsey Anderson, Laura Bonifazi, Beth Cook, Kathy Donnelly, Maggie Elliott, Jenna Gibbs, Shaun Hansel, Rebecca Hansel, Carl Hensley, Patricia Ininguez, Samantha Jacobo, Tebecca Kuehn, Tomeka Magnani, Elaine Martin, Kathy Patience, Patty Powers, Jayne Ryder, Connie Schumm, Betty Shea, Lisa Jensen, Linda Randell, and Susan Johnson. We look forward to meeting you and working with you in the coming years.

December To Do List...

- Keep poinsettias well watered in a bright spot.
- Recycle fireplace ashes to the compost pile.
- Salting sidewalks and drive ways, use calcium chloride not sodium chloride. Salt hurts plants.
- Toss snow from your driveway and walks into perennial beds to protect them.
- Recycle your Christmas tree...cut off branches and lay over perennial beds. Shred the trunk if you have a chipper. Have a large lot or live in the country? Use the tree as a wildlife cover.
- DO NOT fertilize houseplants this month.
- Catch up on garden reading and seed ordering.
- You can still harvest Brussels sprouts and root vegetables that you earlier covered with straw.
- Evaluate your winter garden. Plan and decorate as if it were your warm weather garden. Enjoy!
- Gift Ideas for the Gardener: seed greeting cards, potpourris and sachets, preserved produce, homemade spices and herbs, forced bulbs, garden certificates, potted plants, herbal tees, compost in large tin cans.
- A great book for winter reading, Getting Your Hands Dirty & Your Feet Wet Again by Master Gardeners Of Linn County. The "winter" section is full of info including care for poinsettias, African violets and Christmas cactus, overwintering plants, houseplants in the winter months, winter gardening with children...a good read.

January

- Make an overall garden plan.
- Place orders for catalogs
- Place plant and seed orders early to ensure getting the varieties you want.
- Don't use soft or cold water on your houseplants. Remove dust from plants with a damp cloth or a shower.
- Refrain from fertilizing houseplants.
- Remove snow from evergreen branches with a broom to prevent branches from snapping.
- Check stored plant roots or corms for excessive shriveling and decay.
- Start seeds for slower-growing herbs, such as parsley, thyme, tarragon and sage.
- Continue to harvest Brussels sprouts.
- Take cuttings from ivies and other plants that you are overwintering indoors. Root in jars of water in a sunny window.
- Buy coleus, wax begonias and other flowering plants for indoor flowering to be later planted outdoors.
- Force bulbs for a springtime ambience. Make a winter suet feeder for birds by melting together 1 c. crunchy peanut butter and 1 c. lard. Stir in 1 c. flour, 2 c. cornmeal, 1/4 c. sugar, 1 c. sunflower seeds and 2 c. oatmeal. Pack into a milk carton and freeze. When completely frozen, place in a mesh bag (onion or potato bags work). Hang on a pole outdoors.

Gardening In Iowa And Surrounding Areas by Veronica Lorson Fowler with The Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa

December Birthdays

- 1 Darlene Neff
- 1 Lavon Yeggy
- 3 Loren Leach
- 7 Stephany Hoffelt
- 8 Chuck Strange
- 9 Julie Hegmann
- 11 Emil Rinderspacher
- 11 Rosemary Roelf
- 16 Kandy Munson
- 17 Arlene Donnelly
- 17 Jo Verts
- 20 Curtis Schoenthaler
- 22 Mary Langerman
- 24 Alice Linhart
- 27 Margaret Hibbs
- 27 Sharon Rude
- 28 Melanie Haupert
- 30 Gayle Klouda
- 31 Louise Murray
January Birthdays

- 1 Joan Dinnel
- 4 Fred Meyer
- 5 Jim Ridenour
- 7 Kris Jones
- 9 Lois Dusdieker
- 10 Mary Schnoes
- 11 Dawn Neppel
- 14 Lisa Stark
- 18 Heather Ohrt
- 23 Mike Farran
- 23 Eleanor Yoder
- 24 Marialyce Prior
- 25 Stelia Clark
- 25 Dani Kelsay
- 27 Libby Stroud
- 29 Kelly Lee
- 29 Deanie Young
- 30 Beth Fisher

Upcoming Events

A listing of programs offered by organizations in our area that may be of interest to MGs.

December 2015/January 2016

Backyard Abundance
http://backyardabundance.org/
Saturday, December 5, 2015
10:30-11:30 a.m. Winter Wetland Walk. Iowa River Landing Wetland Park behind Mariott Hotel. Take a Kid Outdoors (TAKO). Take a short walk around wetland on walkway. Hot Cocoa. Meet at Convention Center south doors. Rotary Club Breakfast with Santa also 7:30-11 a.m. Tickets for breakfast $6 each.

Thursday, December 10, 2015
5:30-7:30 p.m. Green Drinks. Share Wine Lounge & Small Plate Bistro, 210 S. Dubuque St. Iowa City. Green drinks is a place to meet and exchange ideas with other green-minded folks in a cozy environment. Learn more: http://www.greendrinks.org/IA/IowaCity.

Thursday, January 14, 2016
5:30-7:30 p.m. Green Drinks. Share WINE Lounge & Small Plate Bistro, 210 S. Dubuque St. Iowa City. Green Drinks is a place to meet and exchange ideas with other green-minded folks in a cozy environment. Learn more: http://www.greendrinks.org/IA/IowaCity.

Sunday, January 17, 2016
1:30-3:30 p.m. Inhabit Film Screening. At Prairiewoods, 120 E. Boyson Rd, Hiawatha, Iowa. Feature length documentary introducing permaculture, a design method that offers an ecological lens for solving issues related to agriculture, economics, governance, and on. Fee is offering to cover $100 screening fee.

Blue Zones
www.bluezones.com
https://iowa.bluezonesproject.com/activities

Bur Oak Land Trust (formerly Johnson County Heritage)

Wednesday, December 9, 2015,
5:00-10:00 p.m. Community Event at Short’s Burgers Eastside, 521 Westburry Dr, Iowa City. Join Bur Oak Land Trust for a Share the Profit Night at Short’s Burgers Eastside. Enjoy the best burgers in town while supporting wildlife and your community. A portion of Short’s profits will be donated to Bur Oak Land Trust.

Coralville Lake

Eastern Iowa Bird Watchers/IC Birds
http://icbirds.org/newsletter.html

Sunday December 20, 2015
Iowa City Christmas Bird Count. For time and information contact Diana Pesek at 319-560-8393.

ECO Iowa City
http://www.icgov.org/?id=2256

Iowa State Extension
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/

Iowa Water
https://www.facebook.com/iowa.city.stormwater.volunteers?sk=wall

Johnson County Conservation
http://www.johnson-county.com/conservation

Thursday January 7, 2016
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Kent Park Restoration. Learn about the issues facing Kent Park and the plans for restoration. If you have an interest in Kent Park, this is for you. Reservations not required. Conservation Education Center. Call CEC at 319-645-1011

Friday, January 8, 2016.
8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Owl Prowl. Winter is a great time to get outside in search of owls as many are claiming their territories and calling for mates. Naturalist Sydney Algreen to learn about these nocturnal creatures. Short indoor, kid-friendly program followed by a guided hike to
search for these nocturnal creatures, and a wrap up with hot chocolate. Dress for the weather. Free but registration is required by 4:00 p.m. January 4, 2016. Call 319-645-1011.

**Saturday, January 16, 2016**
2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Ice Fishing at Kent Park. Join Conservation Program Manager Brad Freidhof in this free program to learn the basics of ice fishing. Participants should dress for the weather and meet at the parking lot on the west side of the dam. Preregistration requested but not required. Call 319-645-2315 for information.

**Sunday January 24, 2016**
1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Snowshoe Hike at F.W. Kent Park. Get outside and walk off those holiday cookies with the JCC staff. Naturalist-led hike will cover gentle terrain, but will include sloped grades. Snowshoes provided in various sizes. Include your shoe size in registration information. If there is too little snow, the hike will go on, but will just be an afternoon nature hike without snowshoes. Register by 4 p.m., January 20, 2016. Call 319-645-1011 or email kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us.

**Wednesday, January 27, 2016**
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Winter Watercolor Class. Watercolor class geared towards beginners and will feature nature-themed work. Recommended for teenagers and adults. There is a $5 materials fee and registration is required by 4 p.m., Wednesday, January 20, 2016. To register, call 319-645-1011 or email kmorrow@co.johnson.ia.us.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Oaknoll-MG Volunteer Matching Program**
MG volunteers are matched with Oaknoll residents to assist with planting and maintaining their small garden spaces at Oaknoll. Please contact Marilou Gay at 466-3047 or rmlgay@aol.com or Vicki Siefers 331-1798 or vsiefers@mchsi.com if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

**Solon School Gardens**
Solon School Gardens can use your help! We are in need of MG’s that would like to work on this Core project on their own time schedule. Work in these gardens is primarily pruning, weeding and moving plants. There are periodic group work events. Please contact Tracy Hufford at 624-3342 or tracehuff@aol.com

**Speakers Bureau**
Master Gardeners, are you interested in earning hours being a speaker? If so, please contact Sharon Jeter, or leave your name, number, and topics of interest and Sharon will contact you.

Also, if you give presentations for the Speakers Bureau please contact Sharon to inform her of your work. She records the information for her annual report. Contact Jackie Wellborn, 512-8382, jackiewe@mchsi.com

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**Check the website for events and activities.**

- **Johnson County-ISU Extension**
  [http://www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/)

- **Linn County-ISU Extension**

- **New Pioneer Coop**

- **Project Green**

- **Seed Savers**
  [http://www.seedsavers.org/Education/](http://www.seedsavers.org/Education/)

- **Trees Forever**
  [http://www.treesforever.org/Events](http://www.treesforever.org/Events)

- **100 Grannies**
  [http://100grannies.org](http://100grannies.org)
  [http://100grannies.org/calendar/next-meeting/](http://100grannies.org/calendar/next-meeting/)
If you are interested in learning more about or helping with a project listed below, contact one of the chairperson(s) listed for that project. Thank you!

**Attended Displays:** Recruiting a new leader for 2016. Please contact Shannon Bielicke if interested. (bielicke@iastate.edu)

**Butterfly House at Fairgrounds**
Carolyn Murphy 541-7079; carolyn-murphy@uiowa.edu, Barb Krug, 431-5865; kbjfarm@yahoo.com; Mike Murphy, 351-6345

**Coralville Historical School House:** Cindy Parsons, 338-3975; cparsons@icialaw.com

**Ecumenical Towers:** Jane Zukin, 339-9127; Janezukin@aol.com

**Demo Garden:** Sherlyn Flesher, 541-4277; khyber71@aol.com; Jon or Kristel Saxton, (515) 460-2415, khyber71@aol.com;

**Downtown City Gardens (Non-core)**
Linda Schreiber, 319-936-8600, lnreicher@gmail.com

**Fair Grounds Beautification:**
**Rain Garden:** Lavon Yeggy, 330-0952, lavon47@Lcom.net, Mardi Rasmussen, 624-4090, martharasmussen@yahoo.com

**Fair Grounds Flower Beds:** Joan Dinnel, 338-2434, jdinle@aol.com, Barb Krug, 857-4569, kbjfarm@yahoo.com

**Firefighters’ Memorial:** Barb Schintler, 651-5174, barbarschintler@hotmail.com

**Fundraising/Flea Market:** Barb Krug, 431-5865, kbjfarm@yahoo.com

**Hortline:** Esther Retish, 351-5011, eretish@mchsi.com; Lynn Todd, 354-8563, linctodd53@hotmail.com Recruiting help with leadership for 2016. Please contact Shannon Bielicke if interested. (bielicke@iastate.edu)

**Hospice Garden at Willow Creek Park:** Melanie Haupert, 351-1149, melaniehaupert@gmail.com

**Intern Class/Training:** Nicole Pearson, (507) 251-0902, nicole-pearson@uiowa.edu

**Johnson County Fair / 4-H Buckets of Flowers, Scarecrow:** Marilou Gay, 466-3047, rmlgay@aol.com
Lavon Yeggy, 330-0952, lavon47@Lcom.net

**Mark Twain People's Garden (Non-core):** Julie Hegmann, 337-3607, Julie@hegmann.net

**Oaknoll Garden Project (Non-core):** Marilou Gay, 466-3047, rmlgay@aol.com

**Plum Grove:** Betty Kelly, 351-4903, bkiowa@gmail.com; Joanne Leach, 351-4722, jeleach@jlgardens.net; Lavon Yeggy, 330-0952, lavon47@Lcom.net; Carolyn Murphy, 541-7079, candmmurphy@aol.com

**Raptor Center Gardens:** Alice Linhart, 621-8073, mikeandalice@southslope.net; Karole Fuller, 338-3561, jnkfuller@live.com

**Speakers Bureau:** Jackie Wellborn, 512-8382, jackiewe@mchsi.com

**Social Events:** Steering Committee, Lavon Yeggy, 337-6327, lavon47@Lcom.net. Recruiting a new leader for 2016. Please contact Shannon Bielicke if interested. (bielicke@iastate.edu)

**Solon High School:** Tracy Hufford, 624-3342, TraceHuff@aol.com

**Steering Committee Chair:** Lavon Yeggy, 330-0952, lavon47@Lcom.net, Sharon Jeter, 631-2148, sharonjeter@gmail.com; Barb Krug, 431-5865, kbjfarm@yahoo.com

**Thymes:** Jan Denehy, 338-7493, janice-denehy@uiowa.edu

**Treasurer:** Loren Leach, 351-4722, lleach@jlgardens.net

**Volunteer Hours/Secretary:** Shannon Bielicke, 337-2145, bielicke@iastate.edu
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