MG Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 11, 7:00 pm; Johnson County Extension Office. 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 December/January issue by Thursday, November 19.

Master Gardener Growing Season Webinar Series
Monday, Nov. 16, 6-7:30 pm, Johnson County Extension Office, Pollinators & Growing Herbs
These courses count for continuing educational hours and are free of charge. Please call or email Shannon Bielicke (337-2145, bielicke@iastate.edu) to register. If you would like to moderate or bring treats please contact Shannon. You are welcome to sign up for the webinars individually if you are unable to make it to them all.

Save the Date: Winter Gardening Fair
Saturday, March 5th, Coe College, Cedar Rapids

Who are Master Gardeners?
Approximately 80% of survey respondents were female, and 20% were male. Almost 2/3 were 60 years old or older, and an additional quarter were in their 50s. Given the age demographic, it’s not surprising that 46% are retired, yet almost a third work full time outside the home and 15% work part time. You’re a highly educated bunch: almost 31% have a graduate degree and an additional 34% have at least a bachelor’s degree.

Many dedicated volunteers are part of the program: 21% volunteered more than 80 hours in 2014 and 24% volunteered 40-80 hours. As for length of service as Master Gardeners, 25% of you have been with the program for at least 10 years, 20% for 6-9 years, 15% for 4-5 years, 23% for 2-3 years, and 18% were in their first year as volunteers. ISU Newsletter, October 2015

November Birthdays
- 2 Linda Schreiber
- 6 Nancy Kennedy
- 6 Lorna Larson
- 6 Peg Stritesky
- 7 Bill Kline
- 9 Janis Bultman
- 9 Joy TenEick
- 19 Tina Owen
- 19 Alicia Trimble
- 20 Caroline Mast
- 22 Ellen Roan
- 24 John Neff
- 25 Jana Cohen
- 26 Tracy Kooogler Pierce
- 29 Barb Krug
- 30 Becky Birch
Robin Fall Migration

Have you seen an explosion of robins in your yard the last few weeks? When we thought they have left for the year, suddenly flocks of robins are actively darting from tree to tree to eat berries and other fruit left on trees and bushes. Although we tend to think of robins as worm and insect eaters, they are also fond of the sweet taste of ripe berries and fruit. At this time of the year when the temperatures get colder and the insects and worms are few, they are attracted to other food sources.

Robins do not have predictable patterns of migration as seen in many other birds. Their migratory patterns are more a response to food rather than to temperature. They tend to move south in search of food sources. Once they find a source of food, they will flock together and stay and look for other sources of food. During the cold winter months they will need more food, so they tend to wander from place to place continuing their search for food. Some robins will stay close to their summer home while others will migrate long distances.

The robins we have seen in our yards the last few weeks have likely begun their migration south but have been lucky enough to find your or your neighbors yard if you have planted berry- and fruit-bearing trees and bushes. Enjoy their swooping and competing for berries now for when the berries are gone, the robins will be moving on in search for another inviting yard or field.

Jan Denehy

Forcing Amaryllis Indoors

Forcing flower bulbs indoors is an excellent way to brighten the cold, gray days of winter. One of the easiest bulbs to force indoors is the amaryllis. Amaryllis bulbs can be purchased pre-planted in pots or unpotted. When purchasing unpotted amaryllis bulbs, select large, solid bulbs. The largest bulbs often produce two flower stalks. Gardeners can choose from single-flowering, double-flowering and miniature varieties. Flower colors include red, pink, orange, salmon, white and bicolors.

When planting an amaryllis bulb, select a pot that is approximately 1 to 2 inches wider than the diameter of the bulb. The container may be clay, ceramic or plastic, but should have drainage holes in the bottom. Plant the bulb in good, well-drained potting soil. Add a small amount of potting soil in the bottom of the pot. Center the bulb in the middle of the pot. Then add additional potting soil, firming it around the roots and bulb. When finished potting, the upper one-half of the bulb should remain above the soil surface. Also, leave about one inch between the soil surface and the pot’s rim. Then water well and place in a warm (70 to 75 F) location.

Check the pot before watering a pre-planted amaryllis bulb. If the container doesn’t have drainage holes, remove the bulb and replant it in a pot with drainage holes. Water well. After the initial watering, allow the soil to dry somewhat before watering again. Keep the soil moist, but not wet. When growth appears, move the plant to a sunny window and apply a water-soluble fertilizer every two to four weeks.

During flower stalk elongation, turn the pot each day to keep the flower stalk growing straight. Flower stalks that lean badly will need to be staked. Flowering usually occurs about six to eight weeks after potting. When the amaryllis begins to bloom, move the plant to a slightly cooler (65 to 70 F) location that doesn’t receive direct sun to prolong the life of the flowers. Some individuals discard their amaryllis after it is done blooming. However, if given proper care, the amaryllis can be saved and forced to flower again next winter.

By Richard Jauron, Horticulturist, Iowa State University Extension
Upcoming Events

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

November 2015

Backyard Abundance
http://backyardabundance.org/

Saturday, November 7, 2015
6:00-8:00 p.m. Edible Outdoors: Cooking. Free potluck and music by Milk and Eggs. Basement of Wesley Center, Dubuque Street between Market and Jefferson. Check Backyard Abundance for information on fees for cooking demonstrations.

Thursday, November 12, 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.

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

Bur Oak Land Trust (formerly Johnson County Heritage)

Sunday, November 8, 2015,
5:00-9:00 p.m. Share the profit with RIDE and Burr Oak Land Trust. Join Burr Oak Land Trust for a Share the Profit Night at Ride, 630 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City. Enjoy fresh Iowa Food—never frozen! A special fried chicken dinner and regular dinner menu served.

Coralville Lake

Saturday, November 7, 2015,
9:00 a.m. or 1:00p.m., Prairie Seed Collection. Volunteers will be hand collecting prairie seed from a variety of prairie remnants and reconstructions to be replanted into a 125 acre restoration project along Ely Blacktop (County Road W6E). An interpretive program about prairie ecosystems and restoration will be included at the beginning. Call 319-338-3543 ext, 6306.

Sunday, November 15, 2015, Prairie Seed Collection (see previous description).

Eastern Iowa Bird Watchers/IC Birds
http://icbirds.org/newsletter.html
Sunday November 15, 2015

7:00 a.m. Mississippi River Tundra Swan and other late fall migrants watch. Meet at the parking lot at the gas station at the new Hy-Vee on North Dodge Street. This is an all day trip. Call if you plan on attending as there is a possibility of taking a boat trip on the Mississippi River. Karen Disbrow, 319-430-0315.

Wednesday, November 18, 2015
8:00 a.m. Kent Park Bird Walk. Meet at the Kent Park CEC. Contact Rick Hollis, 665-3141 for more information.

Thursday, November 19, 2015
7:00 p.m. Meeting. Linda Rudolf and Bill Scheible will present “Birding the Areas of La Mancha, Coto Donana and Extremadura in Spain.” Room A, Robert A Lee Community Rec Center, 220 S Gilbert Street.

ECO Iowa City
http://www.icgov.org/?id=2256
Check website for events.

Iowa State Extension
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/
Nothing scheduled at press time.

Iowa Water
https://www.facebook.com/iowa.city.stormwater.volunteers?sk=wall
Nothing scheduled at press time.

Johnson County Conservation
http://www.johnson-county.com/conservation
No scheduled activities posted at press time.

Johnson County-ISU Extension
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/

Tuesday, November 3, 2015,
6:00-9:30 p.m., Johnson County Master Gardener Fall Training. "Turfgrass Management," Johnson County Extension Office, 3109 Old Highway 218 South.
Shannon Bielicke, 319-337-2145, bielicke@iastate.edu.

Tuesday, November 10, 2015,
6:00-9:30 p.m. Johnson County Master Gardener Fall Training, "Weed Management," Johnson County Extension Office, 3109 Old Highway 218 South, Shannon Bielicke, 319-337-2145, bielicke@iastate.edu.

Wednesday, November 11, 2015,
9:00-11:30 a.m., Ornamental and Turf Pesticide CIC.
Johnson County Extension Office, 3109 Old Highway 218 South. Registration and $35 fee. Shannon Bielicke, 319-337-2145, bielicke@iastate.edu.

Tuesday, November 10, 2015,
6:00-9:30 p.m. Johnson County Master Gardener Fall Training, "Weed Management," Johnson County Extension Office, 3109 Old Highway 218 South, Shannon Bielicke, 319-337-2145, bielicke@iastate.edu.

Monday, November 16, 2015,
6:00-8:30 p.m., Johnson County Master Gardener Webinar Series, “Pollinators and Growing Herbs.” Johnson County Master Gardeners only. Johnson County
Extension Office, 3109 Old Highway 218 South. Free. Shannon Bielicke, 319-337-2145, bielicke@iastate.edu.

**Tuesday, November 17, 2015,**
6:00-9:30 p.m., Johnson County Master Gardener Fall Training, “Animal Ecology,” Johnson County Extension Office, 3109 Old Highway 218 South. Shannon Bielicke, 319-337-2145, bielicke@iastate.edu.

**Tuesday, November 19, 2015,**
6:00-9:30 p.m., Johnson County Master Gardener Fall Training, “Volunteer Planning,” Johnson County Extension Office, 3109 Old Highway 218 South. Shannon Bielicke, 319-337-2145, bielicke@iastate.edu.

**Linn County-ISU Extension**
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/ShowList.asp?County=Linn&CountiesScope
No scheduled activities posted at press time.

**New Pioneer Coop**
Check the website for events and activities.

**Project Green**
http://www.projectgreen.org/ and
https://www.facebook.com/www.projectgreen.org
No scheduled activities posted at press time.

**Seed Savers**
http://www.seedsavers.org/Education/
Check the website for events and activities.

**Trees Forever**
http://www.treesforever.org/Events
No scheduled activities posted at press time

**100 Grannies**
http://100grannies.org
http://100grannies.org/calendar/next-meeting/

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### 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 Sharon at 631-2148

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### MG Committee Chairs

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 (bielicke@iastate.edu) if interested.

**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

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100 Grannies
http://100grannies.org
http://100grannies.org/calendar/next-meeting/
**Demo Garden:** Sherlyn Flesher, 541-4277; khyber71@aol.com; Jon or Kristel Saxton, (515) 460-2415, kristel.saxton@gmail.com

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

**Fair Grounds Beautification:** An additional one or two people are needed to complete the committee to coordinate tending the rain garden, tending the fairgrounds, and organizing the MG county fair activities, such as Bucket of Flowers and 4H awards. Contact Lavon Yeggy, 330-0952; lavon47@Lcom.net; Joan Dinnel, 338-2434, jdin nel@aol.com; Barb Krug, 431-5865; kbjfarm@yahoo.com; Mardi Rasmussen, 624-4090, martharasmussen@yahoo.com

**Firefighters’ Memorial:** Barb Schintler, 651-5174, barbjschintler@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 (bielicke@iastate.edu) if interested.

**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

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

**Plum Grove:** Betty Kelly, 351-4903, bklkiowa@gmail.com; Joanne Leach, 351-4722, lleach@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:** Sharon Jeter, 631-2148, shrnjet@mchsi.com

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

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

**Steering Committee Chair:** Lavon Yeggy, 330-0952; lavon47@Lcom.net, Carolyn Murphy 541-7079; carolynmurphy@uiowa.edu, Barb Krug, 431-5865; kbjfarm@yahoo.com

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

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

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Phone: 319-357-2143
Fax: 319-357-7964

Iowa State University and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating; extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, disability, or status as a protected veteran.

Send email to: janice-denehy@uiowa.edu