Do you think of your garden as fleeting or perpetual? After reading about poet Emily Dickinson's homestead garden in Amherst, Massachusetts and the recent efforts to restore it, I think the answer is both. In 1855, Edward Dickinson built a greenhouse for his daughters Emily and Lavinia. Emily studied botany from a young age, and she spoke of lilacs, roses, peonies, sweet william, foxgloves, poppies, daisies, hollyhocks, and zinnias in her writings. She referred to wildflowers as "beautiful children of spring." According to the New York Times, archaeologists have excavated the property at the site of the Emily Dickinson Museum, where they unearthed the remains of the conservatory. The curators have resurrected the Dickinson orchard by planting heirloom apple and pear trees, and plan to search for 19th century garden beds marked by the quality of the soil. They believe that they may be able to coax new life from long-buried seeds, pointing out that scientists have grown sprouts from 10,000 year-old botanical material. So while an individual bloom may be short-lived, it is comforting to know that nature endures.

Have a wonderful June!  
*The poetry of the earth is never dead.* ~ John Keats  
**Sherri Soich, Steering Committee Chair** sherrisoich@gmail.com or 515-710-5665.

**Bus Trips 2016**

THIS IS THE LAST CALL FOR OUR ONE DAY TRIP to be held on Saturday, June 4th - there are only 4 seats left on the bus. We will be heading to western Iowa to visit America's first aronia berry farm - Sawmll Hollow - in a beautiful Loess Hills setting. We will round out the trip with a visit to a beautiful private garden, tour the indoor production facility at Red Oak Greenhouse, and shop at Sherbondy's Nursery (highly recommended by our private garden owner). The registration form for the trip is available on the PCMG website.

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE TRIP TO MINNEAPOLIS! The registration form for the Minneapolis trip is on the Polk County Master Gardener website. The trip dates are July 22 to July 24th. On our last visit to Minneapolis, many of us fell in love with Tangletown Gardens nursery and the owners' fabulous private gardens. For the visit in July, we will be joining the Tangletown Gardens' Garden and Art Tour. This is an annual event featuring some of the Twin Cities' best private gardens and local art. What a great opportunity to see some very cool private gardens with local art work on display in the gardens! We have also scheduled time to shop at the fabulous Tangletown Gardens, as well as Bachman's - one of the twin cities larger retail nursery centers. We can't go to Minneapolis without spending some time at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. With 1,137 acres of natural areas and public garden areas it is hard to see everything this garden has to offer in one visit. Please see the registration form for more details. The bus is already half full - so register soon in order to save your seat on the bus.  

**Laurie Barrick, BARRICK8792@msn.com**
Art Show

Call for Artists for 2016 All-Iowa Master Gardener's Art Show

Be part of the fifth annual Master Gardener's Art Show. Entering the show is open to all Iowa Master Gardeners. The exhibition will be held at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, beginning with a reception on Thursday, August 18, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Applications are being accepted now through August 1, 2016. Entries must have a horticultural, floriculture, or gardening theme and must have been completed within the last 3 years. In addition to Best of Category designation, selected art work will be exhibited at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden's North Gallery from August 19 through October 16. Free standing art pieces may be entered in the Art Show, but it is not possible to display free standing objects in the North Gallery; these entries will be represented in a photo collage. Selections for art to be hung in the gallery will be based on Botanical Garden criteria for exhibits and selection will be part of the judging process.

Awards will be presented at the Art Show Reception open to the public, friends, and family at the Botanical Garden's Swartz and Walsh rooms on Thursday, August 18, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

If not selected to hang in the North Gallery, art needs to be picked up August 18, 7:00 p.m. at the Botanical Garden. If selected to be hung in the North Gallery, art needs to be picked up on October 17.

Categories
Drawing, Painting, Photography, Mixed Media, Fiber/Leather/Basketry, Ceramic, Metal, Glass, and Repurposed for Garden Art.

If an individual artist wishes to apply in more than one category, a separate application will need to be submitted for each piece of art work. Up to 3 entries can be made per category. Mail completed application(s) to Pat Reeves by August 1, 2016. Questions - contact Pat at patriciareeves2@gmail.com

Please check out the categories and enter the Art Show. The application is at this link. Please bring your friends and family to the Art Show Reception. Some pieces will be for sale.

Pat Reeves, Art Show chair

Directory Updates

Karen Creager has a new address 10 E Fulton Dr, Des Moines, IA 50315. Her cell number remains 515-491-3911
Demonstration Garden

We're off to a great start this gardening season. The beds have (mostly) been planted and mulching is underway. As with most gardens, there is always something new to discover on a return visit to the demo garden this year. Look for a relocated herb bed next to the garden shed, a new hummingbird circle adjoining the butterfly garden, and fledgling blueberries planted near the fruit orchard. Native bees will be encouraged to pollinate the garden this year thanks to the donation of new native bee houses by master gardener Valerie Just. Also, with a little bit of luck weather-wise, there will be a new birdbath fountain installed in the central plaza area by the time you are reading this.

Our watering team is in need of volunteers to help out during the periodic dry spells we can expect this year. If you have a special talent for holding onto the end of a water hose, or would like to learn, please consider joining our watering team by contacting Susan Travis, eagles.wind@gmail.com. Any time you can donate will be much appreciated.

Regular work nights will continue on Mondays throughout the season. The usual start time is 5 p.m., or whenever you can get there. We'll also have work nights on Thursday evenings until summer education classes kickoff on June 16th, with a presentation on beekeeping basics. The entire 2016 class schedule is available on the PCMG website.

Co-Chairs, Ruth Doxon, Sandie Sydnes, and Diane Ackerman

Greenhouse

Many of you already know that we have fired ourselves from the Greenhouse Co-chair positions. Cheryl Fridl and Jean Schustek have agreed to become the new co-chairs, leaving the project and management of the greenhouse in great hands. The six years we've had the job have been filled with some lows but many more highs. It's given us the opportunity to meet many wonderful and hardworking folks in those six years. None of the successes would have happened without your help. Thank you. We have agreed to some specific greenhouse projects, will continue with our beds at the Discovery Garden, work the day of the Garden Tour, and one shift at Farmers Market. Here's hoping our paths continue to cross.

Alda and Bob Helvey

Greenhouse co-chairs: Jean Schustek and Cheryl Fridl

Farmers Market

Our first appearance at the Downtown Des Moines Farmers' Market (Saturday, May 21) went very well. Our featured topics were Spring Planting and Container Gardening. The booth had over 300 visitors! We gave away hundreds of seed packets and Extension publications on gardening, and we answered (or tried to answer) lots of plant questions.

Our remaining Market appearances will be on each third Saturday, from June through September (June 18, July 16, August 20 and September 17). Please let us know if you have suggestions about gardening topics that we should feature at one of these outings!

Matt Dore, FM Co-chair (matt.dore@drake.edu)
Garden Tour

The 2016 Garden Tour is Saturday, June 25-a little more than three weeks away! The featured gardens include the Demo Garden, St. Timothy's Faith and Grace Garden, and six Master Gardener home gardens in Clive and West Des Moines. The Tour is an integral part of the PCMG's gardening education mission and a great way to spread the Gospel of Gardens. It's also the PCMG's second biggest fundraiser. For more information about the Tour, see our web page and the Tour Facebook Page (log into Facebook before clicking this Facebook Page link).

You can help insure the Tour's success by doing two simple but very important things:

First, **BUY TICKETS FOR YOURSELF AND FRIENDS.** PCMG members are the direct beneficiaries of the Tour and should be its strongest supporters and advocates. Tour tickets ($15) make great gifts (remember Father's Day is coming up) and are available on line through Eventbrite ([https://www.eventbrite.com/e/polk-county-master-gardeners-2016-garden-tour-tickets-24495933998](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/polk-county-master-gardeners-2016-garden-tour-tickets-24495933998)) and also at Canoyer Garden Center, Earl May (Ankeny, WDM & Waukee stores), Goode Greenhouses, Ted Lare and The Woodsmith Store.

Second, **SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE TOUR TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS YOU CAN.** Like us on Facebook! List the Tour as an event on any community calendars you know of. Get Tour posters from the Extension Office in Altoona and put them up in your workplace, at local businesses and in community centers. You can also download a 8 ½ by 11 copy of the Tour poster by [clicking here](#).

The Greenhouse Season and the Plant Sale went beautifully thanks to the collective efforts of many Master Gardeners. Please do your part to make sure that our Garden Tour is equally successful!

**Garden Tour Committee**

**Community Information**

If you need a reason to visit Cedar Rapids this summer, here's one. The Linn County Master Gardeners are featuring four gardens on a walk in July. For full details, click [here](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/news/2016-garden-walk) or visit [http://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/news/2016-garden-walk](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/news/2016-garden-walk)

**Compost**

Judy called from ARL Main barn. She has approximately 2 pick up loads of well aged horse manure at the location at 5452 NE 22nd Street. If you are interested, please call her at 473-9112 to arrange time to pick up. You don't have to take it all. Judy said folks often stop with a couple of 5 gallon buckets.
The pathway is installed and it looks fabulous! Gardeners and visitors agree that it looks great and it is a very comfortable surface on which to walk. The renovations will continue with the gazebo facelift and a new perimeter fence that should be installed this month. It has been a long, sometimes difficult process to complete, but seeing it all come together is very rewarding.

Most of the gardens have been planted, the pathway installation and some rainy days have delayed the work on the rest of the beds, but they should be finished in the near future.

We will be having an educational session on Wednesday, June 29th at 5:30 pm, "All About Begonias". We are celebrating the year of the begonia by learning more about them, so come and join us.

Remembering Jennie.
We would be remiss if we did not remember our fellow gardener Jennie Clay, who passed away on April 17th, 2016. Jennie was a Master Gardener and a big part of the Discovery Garden for many years, serving as a co-chair and as part of the Children's Garden team for several years. She always brought a mimosa (sensitive plant) to the fair so that all of the kids could touch it and watch how it reacted. Her smiling face and cheerful demeanor will be greatly missed.

"There are always flowers for those who want to see them" Henri Matisse

Co-Chairs:
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Jean Roe ljroe@q.com tel:515.205.8706
Patrick Schmitt schmittpatrickj@gmail.com tel:515.279.9645,
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Do you use Facebook?
If so, please check the various PCMG project Facebook pages regularly and "like" them so you can share news of upcoming events with those who see your posts.

Right now, the Garden Tour and Plant Sale have posts they'd love to see spread to many Facebook users.

Once on Facebook, search for Polk County Master Gardeners, PCMG Garden Tour, Polk County Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale, Discovery Garden - Polk County Master Gardeners, Demonstration Garden, Polk County Master Gardener Greenhouse, Enabling Garden, and PCMG Demonstration Garden
Whew! June is going to be a busy month in the Garden!

For the first time ever, we are proud to offer Tai Chi in the Garden provided by one of our very own volunteers! Bill Goshorn will be leading and teaching a session on select Saturdays during the summer months. Please join us at 10:00 am on the following Saturdays: June 4th, July 2nd, and August 6th. This gentle exercise is open to folks of all abilities so bring a bottle of water and friend to get your weekend started with stretching, strengthening and relaxation.

Our Season of Learning continues this month with our special guest, Katherine (Kat) Nelson, who will be speaking about Bonsai Basics. Grab a lawn chair and join us in the garden at 7:00PM on Tuesday, June 21st for this unique and interesting discussion. Also, we will have a children’s program in the Children's Garden. Nature Art from 6:00 -8:00 pm on June 28th. Here is a great opportunity to bring the kids out and enjoy the Children's garden. Help your children see the beauty around them with this fun and interactive program.

Once again, the Enabling Garden will be the site for Altoona's Wine and Craft Beer Fest, sponsored by the Altoona Area Chamber of Commerce and the Altoona Hy-Vee on Saturday, June 17 between 5:00 - 8:00PM. Get your tickets today for this awesome event! Tickets are $15 in advance and $25 at "the door" and can be purchased at Altoona Hy-Vee or the Altoona Chamber of Commerce. The cost of admission gets you an evening of wine & beer samples, gourmet cheeses, fruits and crudités, and entertainment. See the link below for more information! Altoona's Wine and Craft Beer Fest

Last but not least, regular work nights at the Enabling Garden are underway on Tuesdays. Plan to join us on any Tuesday late afternoon starting 5:00PM, weather permitting. Please join us for fun, food and fellowship in the garden.

EG Co-Chairs: Sandie Hamilton, Paula Winslow, Christine Barker & Sharon Schoonover.
Plant Sale

Once again our wonderful Master Gardeners came through and made 2016 another amazing success!

There are so many people who deserve our thanks. The Greenhouse crew for managing the greenhouses and all of the volunteers who gave their time on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. The Farmers Market Group who set up their stand at Saturdays sale and answered questions. as well as spreading the word about what a great programme we have and the many wonderful projects we are involved with. All of the Master Gardeners who helped set up the sale or worked shifts and those who made so many fabulous donations.

Some of the highlights of this years sale:
The perennial donations we received this year were especially beautiful and varied. So much so that by the end of the sale on Sunday afternoon we had sold over 1,000 and had almost none left for the Post Sale. A special thanks to all for using our official plant markers with their donations. This really did make the committees job so much easier.

The beautiful Sweet Gum Print donated by our very own Lindy Smith. In the coming weeks we will be marketing the print on as many Master Gardener Facebook pages throughout the state as possible. We did feature it during the Plant Sale but because of the limited space and the hectic nature of the sale itself we feel this is a much better, and safer, way to showcase it. The print is valued at $800 and would be a wonderful addition to any home.

The Soil Conservation Group who joined us on Saturday morning. They provided coffee, bagel bites and Butterfly Weed plants and were able to explain their mission to around 100 of our shoppers. They were delighted by the morning's success and hope to work with us again.

The fabulous hand made planter boxes donated by Harold Swihart which were all sold by early Saturday morning.

Again the Plant Sale Committee wishes to say an enormous thank you to everyone who played a part, no matter how large or small, in the TREMENDOUS success of PLANT SALE 2016.

NOTE: We are looking for volunteers to join the Plant Sale committee for 2017. We are particularly interested in help with publicity, Volunteer Spot, plant signage and building our power point presentation. These are all great opportunities to earn volunteer hours at home and all necessary training will be provided. Please contact one of the co-chairs if you are interested in serving.

Plant sale co-chairs Jen Jenkins ([jenhj@live.com](mailto:jenhj@live.com)), Jen Firzlaff ([skiier13@mchsi.com](mailto:skiier13@mchsi.com)) and Isabella Hurless-Banks ([imhurless@aol.com](mailto:imhurless@aol.com))
Education Opportunities

Lots of opportunities right here in Polk County with talks in each of our gardens and ISU Summer Webinars at the Extension office. If you’d like to print a copy for yourself, click here.

2016 Public Classes at Polk County Master Gardener’s Gardens

How Does A Garden Grow series
At the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden
92nd & Dewey Gibbs Road, Urbandale
All programs begin at 7:00 pm

June 16 Beekeeping Basics
Mark Brandenburg
June 23 Growing Succulents
Roger Bishop, Piney Ridge
June 30 Perennials for All Season
Marcia Leeper, Garden Enthusiast
July 7 What’s Bugging You?
Iowa State Entomologist
July 14 Open House
Various displays, music, refreshments
July 21 Planting in the Shade
Tara Dudley, Plant Life Designs
July 28 Composting Choices
PCMG Bruce Travis and Linda Thomas
August 6 Art in the Garden
Small Container Garden Challenge

Discover Gardening at the Discovery Garden
Outside the Ag Building at the Iowa State Fair Grounds
All Programs begin at 6:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Hope to see you there!

May 25 State Fair, How & What to Enter
PCMG Jennifer Joos, Fair Floriculture Supr.
June 29 All about Begonias
Roger Bishop, Piney Ridge
July 13 Water Quality
Jackie Comito, ISU

One more presentation at the Discovery Garden will be announced soon.
Please check PCMG web page for details.

Extraordinary Gardens by Ordinary People
Garden Tour
June 25, 2016
Urbandale and West Des Moines
Tickets $15
www.extension.iastate.edu/old/polk/pages/polk-county-master-gardeners

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach
You can also find us at the Des Moines Downtown Farmers’ Market the third Saturday of May, June, July, Aug., and Sept.

Polk County Master Gardener garden talks are presented to the public at no charge. Remember to bring your lawn chair or blanket to sit on and feel free to wander through the Gardens before you leave and enjoy the beauty.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach
Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

Polk County Master Gardeners, 1625 Adventureland Drive,
Suite A, Altoona, IA 50009