Down Cheryl's Garden Path

The plant sale will be upon us about the time May's Green Thumb is sent so I am going to kick start it. Many of the donations items will be yard art. Give some thought to what a statement piece or pieces for your yard could be.

I walk, a lot, through my neighborhood. I look at my neighbor's gardens throughout the year and enjoy, gather ideas and in some cases share seeds, plants or bulbs. There are also some I wonder what the heck were they thinking? I have seen some statement pieces I am going to share that will give you ideas for yard art in your yards.
I love this colorful birdhouse tree because the owner decided to make a statement by keeping the dead tree, trimming back the branches and painting the remaining branches with lime green paint. She repainted birdhouses she had and hung them.

This tree carving used to be a Locust tree. It is a very simple carving that adds a bold touch to the front yard of the owner's home.

This colorful door is technically not yard art but makes a statement by focusing your eye on the house. You then expand your view as the owner has a beautifully landscaped yard.

Enjoy the plant sale and think about your statement piece.

Cheryl Fridl
Steering Committee Chairperson

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Plant Sale

*Mark your 2018 Calendars for May 4, 5, & 6!*

We are only 5-6 weeks away from our 2018 Plant Sale, and while we are making great progress, there is still much to do if we are to build on and exceed our past successes.

*For that to happen we need the help and support of each and every one of you.* Not only to come to the sale to purchase plants and garden items but also to donate as many garden related items as possible, give of your time as a Plant Sale volunteer, and of course pass the word to all your friends and family to come and shop till they drop.

**VOLUNTEERS**

Sign-up is now open and we lots of shifts available.

**Here's how you can sign up:**

1.  **Click this link to see which spots are available**

2.  Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.

3.  Sign up! It's Easy - you will **NOT need to register an account or keep a password**. Note: Your email is not shared with anyone.

**There are 4 shifts available over the sale weekend:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Shift One</th>
<th>Shift Two</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>May 4th</td>
<td>4:30 to 7:15</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>May 5th</td>
<td>7:30 to noon</td>
<td>11:45 to 4:15</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>May 6th</td>
<td>11:30 to 4:15</td>
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NOTE: If you sign up as a helper for any of the Plant Sale shifts and are interested in working as a checker (prior experience not necessary but helpful/training will be provided) please contact Isabella Hurless-Banks at imhurless@aol.com.

All volunteers should wear a white shirt to be readily identifiable to our customers. An MG shirt would be great if you have one, but any plain white shirt is fine. Lunch will be provided for volunteers who work both shifts on Saturday.

DONATIONS

The donations that you make to the sale are pure profit so the more you donate, the more money we will make. Donations can be anything garden related such as perennials, houseplants, planters, garden art etc. If you have donations where you will need assistance just let us know and we will try to get you some help. This could be things like digging up and dividing perennials or picking up large donations. If you have any questions about donations, please contact Isabella Hurless-Banks at imhurless@aol.com or call 278-2067.

If you are donating house plants please contact Isabella or Jen before doing so. This way we can make sure we don't have too many of one kind. This is definitely an area where less is more.

NOTE: The Plant Sale Committee has plant markers which are to be used with all perennial donations. These will be available from any of the plant sale co-chairs as well as at the Greenhouse and the Extension Office. By using these tags with a fine point permanent marker we can ensure that they hold up under the wet and humid conditions at the greenhouse.

Tags will have approximately an inch marked off at the top and this area needs to remain blank and is for use by the Plant Sale only. There will still be plenty of space for you to identify your donations:

- Plant name, color, height and light conditions are all useful information to include.
- Do NOT price your donations.
- We can also help out if you need pots for your perennial donations. Again, just let us know.

NON-PERISHABLE DONATIONS

Non-perishable donations can now be dropped off at the Greenhouse on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9:00 am to noon. We have a fairly limited space for non-perishables so if what you have is particularly large please contact Isabella before delivering it.

CARDBOARD FLATS

If you have been collecting cardboard flats for us we now have enough for the sale so you can bring what you have to the greenhouse any Wednesday or Saturday morning between now and May 2nd. Thanks so much to everyone who has helped us with this need.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

Be sure to like and follow us on Facebook! 

https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1130289167091&format=html&print=true
And print, display or share the 2018 Plant Sale Flyer for friends, family and co-workers!

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding anything in this article please email or call Isabella Hurless-Banks.

Thank you for your support!

Save the Date for our Plant Sale Preview:

- Thursday, April 19th
- Polk County Extension Office
- Pot Luck at 5:45--bring a dish to share
- Program: 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Plant Sale Co-chairs:

Isabella Hurless-Banks: imhurless@aol.com 515-278-2067
Jen Firtzlaff: skiier13@mchsi.com

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Master Gardener Bus Tour

REGISTER NOW FOR THE ONE DAY TRIP TO IOWA CITY!

Saturday, June 2nd
We are ready to start accepting registrations for our visit to the Iowa City area. The registration form is available on the Polk County Master Gardener website. This will be an action packed day with visits to 4 private gardens, 1 public garden, and 3 opportunies to purchase a wide variety of plants and garden accessories. Your registration fee of $50 covers bus travel, admission to the gardens, lunch and snacks.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR THREE DAY TRIP TO THE ROCKFORD/JANESVILLE AREA

Friday - Sunday, July 20 - 22nd
This trip will include visits to the following public gardens: Anderson Japanese Gardens, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden and the Nicholas Conservatory. The week-end will also include visits to some very fun private gardens and nurseries. We have a lot of great stops planned for this trip! We hope that you will join us.

Chair:
Laurie Barrick  barrick8792@msn.com  tel: 515-278-8792

Demonstration Garden

Welcome spring!

It will not be long before the buds of the fruit trees and ornamental trees and shrubs swell and burst forth in beauty.

The birds have started their migration back into Iowa and it is not uncommon to be awakened with a morning song. In April when the night temperatures are more consistently above freezing we will turn on the birdbath bubbler fountain to provide them a fresh drink of water.

The Demonstration garden official spring clean up day is:

Saturday, April 21st at 9 am

Come when you can, leave when you must. Typically we are wrapping up by noon. In advance of that day there will be a couple project days to complete the pathway connector and finish the bed edging near the pathway installed last fall. Watch for dates and times to be published. Start those volunteer hours early in the season.

Our first official work night will be Monday, May 7th. Thursday of the same week we will have an additional work night. Planting for season is always based on weather predictions. If frost is in the forecast the time will be utilized for other maintenance and clean up initiatives.
We are looking forward to the start of a new year and meeting you in the garden.

Visit our website and Like our Current Facebook page:

http://www.demonstrationgardenpcmg.org/
https://www.facebook.com/demonstrationgarden/

Demo Garden Co-Chairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Doxon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rdoxon@gmail.com">rdoxon@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>(515) 253-9115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandie Sydnes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sasydnes@gmail.com">sasydnes@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>(515) 276-1497</td>
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Discovery Garden

"Sweet April showers do spring May flowers"

*Thomas Tusser, English poet*

That sounds very old but it is true, and with the recent snow and rain, the daffodils and tulips are making their way out of the earth and pointing toward the sun. Spring has arrived at last!

The Discovery Garden started their year with the spring planning meeting in March with about 45 gardeners, enjoying the pizza and conversation. It appears that everyone is eager for the growing season to begin. The growing season always involves cleanup and the garden is no exception. A date has not been set for the garden, weather is a big factor, but pond cleanup will be done on Saturday, April 28th. Many hands make light work so go out to the garden and help Dean and the pond crew make the water pretty again.

Happy Spring and Happy Easter to those of you who celebrate it.

Co-Chairs:
Dean Brand  drbrand@mediacombine.net  tel: 515-360-0774
Jean Roe    ljroe@q.com  tel:515.205.8706
Patrick Schmitt  schmittpatrickj@gmail.com  tel:515.279.9645

Like us on Facebook:  https://www.facebook.com/groups/discoverygarden/
View our website:  www.discoverygardenpcmg.org
Enabling Garden

Please join us for our:

Spring Perennial Plant Sale

Saturday, April 21st, Noon to 3:00 PM

While we will be pre-selling on several East Polk County sites, we will have plants available the day of the sale (that do not need to be reserved). If you are looking for ornamental grasses, iris, day lilies, or hosta, drop by and check out the selection.

We are also going to be appearing at the **Altoona Farmers Market, Wednesdays 4 - 7 PM**. We will plan to promote the Enabling Garden, answer gardening questions and recruit local volunteers from the community. Dates that we will plan to appear still need to be worked out with our MG volunteers and the City of Altoona. **Please watch for updates.**

Also please save the dates:

- April 28th (Saturday) - 1:00 PM Spring Clean-up
- May 1st (Tuesday) - 5:00 PM First work night at the Garden

Also, plan ahead: Our work nights are **Tuesday nights starting around 5:00 PM**, weather permitting. Plan ahead and come join the fun, working and socializing in the garden.

**Thanks and see everyone soon!**

Please connect with us on our website

[www.enablinggardenpcmg.org](http://www.enablinggardenpcmg.org)

or check out current pictures and activities that are going on at the Enabling Garden:
Enabling Garden Co-Chairs:

- Sandie Hamilton
- Paula Winslow
- Christine Barker
- Sharon Schoonoer

April 19th Program: What's New for 2018! our Plant Sale, Garden Tour, Art Fair, and MORE!

A Beaverdale Farmers' Market Booth??????

Children crafts & demo's for adults on the Garden Tour????

Yes, lots of fun and innovative projects are planned for 2018!

Please bring a dish to share and enjoy our potluck and fellowship with garden friends beginning at 5:45.

Learn what's new for 2018 beginning at 6:30

This session can be counted as volunteer time. It is an open celebration to kick-off the season so please bring your spouse, family members, and friends! (No pre-registration for the April meeting is needed.)

Thank you to our volunteers for January, February, and March who brought food, made coffee, moved furniture, cleaned tables, and washed dishes!

Program Chair:

| Mary Poulter         | poultermk76@gmail.com | (515) 674-3278 |

Farmers' Market 2018

In a little more than a month the 2018 Des Moines Downtown Farmers' Market season will begin!

The Polk County Master Gardeners' Booth will be open for business at the Market on the third Saturday of each month, May through September.

This year the dates are:
May 19
The PCMG Booth is staffed by volunteer Master Gardeners who answer gardening questions from passersby.

We always keep ISU reference materials handy, so you don't need to know all the gardening answers off the top of your head—but you'll often find that you do!

We staff our booth in two multi-person shifts each Saturday (6:45 - 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.), so you are never answering questions alone.

We also use the Booth as a forum to provide special information on monthly gardening topics of our choosing. For example, the May outing is usually devoted to Planning and Planting Vegetable and Flower Beds. We provide Market patrons with access to gardening reference literature from ISU and related sources on our featured topics, as well as free seeds. Finally, we use our Booth to recruit Market patrons to become Master Gardeners.

We're now looking for VOLUNTEER MASTER GARDENERS to staff our booth! It is a fun way to earn service and education hours. We have created a sign-up forum for volunteers on Sign up.com. The link to our Signup.com page is [here](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1130289167091&format=html&print=true).

We ask that you sign up for no more than two spots initially, so that all Master Gardeners who want to work at the Market have a chance to volunteer. If spots remain open after a few weeks, please feel free to sign up for additional slots. Look for further details on the PCMG Farmers' Market Booth as the season progresses.

If you have ideas about special gardening topics that we should feature at one of our Farmers' Market appearances this season - please contact a Co-chair!

Farmers' Market Co-chairs:
Matt Doré: matt.dore@drake.edu
Sherri Soich: sherrisoich@gmail.com
Randy Campbell: campbellrd@mchsi.com

Art in the Garden 2018

Saturday, August 4th, 2018 - Demonstration Garden
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

One very simple way we can all help promote our Art in the Garden fundraiser is to like our Facebook page, and share new posts!

We plan on having not only more vendors this year, but also offer some food, live demonstrations and a public art project! We will have the "Made by a Master Gardener" booth again, for those of you who love to craft and create, but don't want
to commit to your own booth (a percentage of sales in this goes to the Polk County Master Gardeners)

Of course, we will need volunteers to help run this event - look for sign-ups starting in June.

Are you or someone you know interested in being a vendor?
Artist vendors do NOT have to be Master Gardeners.

Click for links to the Artist Vendor Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art in the Garden Co-chairs:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary Howell-Williams: <a href="mailto:mhwphoto@mchsi.com">mhwphoto@mchsi.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Howsare: <a href="mailto:howsarek@live.com">howsarek@live.com</a></td>
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Polk County Master Gardeners'
2018 Garden Tour

Preparations are underway for the 2018 Garden Tour!
There have been lots of updates to our webpage: www.pcmggardentour.com

Join the Garden Tour Committee! Our planning group will meet again:

- Thursday, April 12th at 6:00 PM
- Johnston Public Library--East Meeting Room

- Thursday, May 10th at 6:00
- Johnston Public Library--West Meeting Room

Sub-committees Meetings. . .
are held on Tuesday nights at Jodie Hands' home--6680 NW 54th Ct, Johnston

- Activities sub-committee: Tuesday, April 10 at 6:30 PM

We have a sub-committee who is planning activities and demonstrations for the gardens on tour day and a publicity committee. . .

. . . Interested in attending a sub-committee meeting or helping on the day of the event? Please contact Jodie.

Donations
If anyone knows a local garden related business who might consider making a donation to help offset printing costs or costs of materials for activities, please contact Jodie Hand or Therese Rolfes.

Craft Supplies--cleaning out your closets?
Activities subcommittee has some fun ideas for the visitors to each garden--for children and adults and they have a wish list of craft supplies. [CLICK HERE](#) for the full list. If you have some to donate please drop them off at the Polk County Extension office.

**Helping with Garden Prep**

Volunteers will be needed to prep gardens ahead of the tour.

[Please sign up here](#).

You can click on any day from April 1 - June 29 when you are available. Host garden sponsors will contact you about assisting with garden maintenance tasks (planting, weeding, watering, etc.). The month of June will require the most help.

**Helping on Garden Tour Day**

Volunteers will be needed to set-up and manage children activities and demonstrations on the day of the tour. We will need help taking tickets, answering gardening questions, and miscellaneous tasks throughout the day. Select June 30th using the link above to sign up for a morning or afternoon shift.

*Even if you aren’t on the planning committee please take the time to "Like" our pages and share it with your friends so we can get some FREE publicity through social media!*

[https://www.facebook.com/PCMGgardentour/](https://www.facebook.com/PCMGgardentour/)

Instagram: [pcmggardentour](#)

Questions -- call Jodie--but it is also okay to just come to our next meeting!

*Save the Date: PCMG 2018 Garden Tour is **Saturday, June 30!***

Garden Tour Co-chairs: Eric & Jodie Hand

Primary Contact is Jodie:

- [jodiemariehand@gmail.com](mailto:jodiemariehand@gmail.com) 319-361-9224

Secondary Contact is Eric:

- [eric.hand@caseys.com](mailto:eric.hand@caseys.com) 515-291-1214

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**All-Iowa Master Gardener Art Show Comes to an End**

Sadly, it has been decided to discontinue the All-Iowa Master Gardener Art Show. The Botanical Garden has chosen not to host nor exhibit the Art Show, as they say they will be taking a new direction with the North Gallery.

Another venue could be found, but after 6 years, it seems like a good time to let the Art Show go, although, thanks to the wonderful Master Gardener artists, it had become an anticipated and highly regarded Art Show.
Thank you all for your participation and/or support. Pat Reeves

Tips on Entering Your Hours

Wonder why Some of your hours are approved and others not?

Thank you for volunteering AND staying fresh with horticulture education!

I also appreciate that you enter your hours regularly. There are a lot more of you than there is of me, so I sometimes get behind. I will do my best to stay more current!

However, when I find that hours are not entered quite right I sometimes will fix one of your entries as an example and approve that one--so look closely . . . you may discover the clue!

But even better, read my recently revised tip sheet that shows step by step how to enter volunteer hours: CLICK HERE

You can edit entries to fix them. Scroll to the left side of the screen and click on the tiny icon of a pen (or on the red, underlined number labeled as "HID"). The entry will open up so you can edit it.

Just remember to use the Save button when you are finished!

Call me if you have questions! --Ike

April Office Hours for Ike

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<td>by appointment call or email me . . .</td>
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</table>
Phone: 515-957-5761
by email: nancyike@iastate.edu

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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

SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient’s email};
Update Profile | About our service provider
Sent by nancyike@iastate.edu in collaboration with

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Try it free today