Greetings Gardeners!

The recent survey and focus group which you'll learn more about in another article for this Green Thumb, was very enlightening. Our Steering Committee (SC) was not exempt from criticism and improvement suggestions. Based on that feedback, this month's article will be about the SC.

The purpose of SC is to serve in a leadership and advisory capacity on PCMG program direction, development, planning, delivery, execution, and evaluation. As a committee we are developing guidelines for our operation. The November meeting reviewed the initial draft of those guidelines and suggested some changes. We are targeting the January SC (SC meets every other month) for another review and hopefully approval of the new guidelines. Until then, the inside back page of the Master Gardener Directory identifies the programs within the SC and people on it. Some of the folks have changed position and the next directory update will include those changes.

The SC meeting is an open meeting meaning anybody can attend. Attendees not holding a position on the SC have two options:

1. **Attend and listen to the discussions about programs and policies.** You can be allotted time to voice an opinion on the subject being discussed—but you may not vote. We allocate a certain amount of time to each discussion to keep us on target to finish our agenda.
2. **Request time on the SC agenda for discussion about a particular topic.**

If you want to schedule time, reach out to me and tell me your topic. I may assign a member of the SC will reach out to you and discuss your idea or topic further. If it's a SC agenda topic, time will be scheduled. On the other hand, if it’s a topic that is better suited to discussion with a Program Chair, we will make a connection for you to that Program Chair.

If you wish to be on the agenda for a meeting I ask that you submit your request by the 15th of the month prior to the next meeting. To be clear, that would mean submit your request for the January SC meeting by December 15.

**SC meeting dates for 2019 are on the following Thursday evenings:**

- January 17
- March 14
- May 16
- July 18
- September 19
- November 21

**Meetings are at 6:00 PM at the Polk County Extension Office in Altoona. (No reservation is required.)**

**Coming in January--Steering Committee Minutes will be Posted on the Web**

Polk County Master Gardeners has a series of web-pages within Polk County Extension’s web. To make minutes from the meeting accessible to all, Ike will add a link to the minutes from Steering Committee to our page (notes from the November meeting will be the first posting).

**Feel free to contact me if you have any questions on the minutes.**

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**December Profile of a PCMG : Jerry Eisenhour**

When I asked about how he obtained an interest in gardening, Jerry said he was led into it by his parents at gun point while growing up in North Central Missouri. They had two garden patches, one flowers and one for veggies which were grown for their consumption. Enough was grown to get them through the Winter.

While teaching theater at Eastern Illinois University, he learned about the Master Gardener Program. His teaching schedule prevented him from enrolling in the MG classes until after retirement when Jerry and his wife Susan relocated to the Des Moines area. Jerry is a graduate of the 2017 class.
His home garden is primarily flowers—both annuals and perennials—but he does grow tomatoes. Jerry has numerous house plants to tend. Jerry volunteers at the Demonstration Garden, on the Program Committee, and at the PCMG Greenhouse—where he was also part of the 2018 Sunday Greenhouse watering team. Jerry now is the Class of 2017 Representative on the SC. Thank you for volunteering, Jerry!

Learning things about gardening through continuing education is his favorite part of the PCMG program.

If there is someone you think should be profiled in the Green Thumb, reach out to me at bob@tsmcgrp.com or 515-224-6424 and tell me about that person.

Bob Helvey
Steering Committee Chair
Bob@tsmcgrp.com

Daytime Continuing Education
Webinars Offered at Polk Co. Extension Office next week

December 12 & 13
Polk County Extension Office

- 9:00 AM to noon
- 1:00 to 4:00

Reservations please: nancyike@iastate.edu or 515-957-5761

Please include:
- Name(s), date & time(s) you want to attend
- Your phone number

Education Hours from Home?????

Yes!

Read details below . . . .

Iowa Master Gardener's YouTube Page

https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1131667688617&format=html&print=true
Clock your hours AND record them by December 31st!

A convenient way to complete your educational requirement is to view horticulture webinars from home or public library computer. And you can select from a variety of topics that interest you as a gardener!

Use the search box to find topics that interest you—or scroll through the most recent releases on the Iowa Master Gardener’s YouTube page.

*As you record your hours, please describe what you learned from the webinar.*

CLICK HERE to link to the YouTube page.

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### Live Webinars this month!

**Register and Participate in these FREE webinars from your home:**

- **Reducing tree damage during construction:**
  - Wednesday, 12/12/18
  - 1:00 - 2:00 PM
  - CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

- **Weed management in the garden & landscape: Understanding herbicides**
  - Monday, 12/17/18
  - 1:00 to 2:00 PM
  - CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

**Reminders of what is NOT allowed for continuing education**

Listening to podcasts or radio programs, reading books, magazines, or websites is not allowed for continuing education credit per the Master Gardener Volunteer Manual. Also, touring gardens without instruction by a trained instructor is not appropriate for MG CEC.

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### Greenhouse

As the Greenhouse season approaches, watering teams are being organized.

Watering teams are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on:
Mondays & Fridays February through April and Tuesdays, Thursdays & Sundays—March through April.
Teams are by day of the week—but you can volunteer to be part of more than one team.

Each day has a team captain who will open the greenhouse, turn on the water and answer any question that you might have.

If you are available for any (all?) of those days, please contact Sharon Beninato: sbeninato54@msn.com or (515) 249-3975.

Visual of Watering Team Schedules-- Contact Sharon Beninato to volunteer

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<th>Month</th>
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The greenhouse labs will be held Saturday, January 19th, Wednesday, January 23rd and Saturday, January 26th, 2019. We will start promptly at 9:00 am so aim to arrive at the greenhouse around 8:45. We will be primarily focusing on watering, soils, sowing seeds and transplanting. The lab usually runs around two hours and will be considered education for those Master Gardeners who would like to attend and refresh your skills.

Contact person to sign-up is Co-Chair Cheryl Fridl at cheryl.fridl@gmail.com. As the interns have selected their training dates, Cheryl would appreciate a first and second choice just in case your first-choice date is filled. You will receive a confirming email.

As always, wear your name tag and dress in layers and be prepared to have fun!

Greenhouse weather policy. If the local schools are closed, the greenhouse is closed. Your safety comes first.

Greenhouse Co-chairs:
Cheryl Fridl - cheryl.fridl@gmail.com
Kent Freise - kentfreise@gmail.com
Jean Schustek - jean.schustek@gmail.com

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Program Committee

Get a Jump-start on your 2019 Continuing Education Credit Requirement!

Each calendar year you need 10 hours of CEC
Enjoy some social time & a light supper made by MG volunteers and then learn something new about home horticulture each month, Jan-Apr!

- Yummy home-made soup--serving starts at 5:45
- You may bring a dish to share--but NOT required!
- Program kicks off at 6:15 & ends at 9:00
- Free & open to the Public--yes, invite a guest!

Save the dates:

- **Tuesday, Jan. 8:** Tivon Feeley, Iowa DNR "Trees: soils, pests & threats"
- **Thursday, Feb 28:** Dr. Rosburg, Drake "Tallgrass prairies & threats to those native plants"
- **Thursday, March 28:** Jordan Scheibel, Middle Way Farm 'Five Lessons for Growing Organic Vegetables"
- **April:** TBD

- Jan-Mar: 2.5 hours of CEC
- Apr: 1 hour CEC plus--see what's new for the Plant Sale & our 2019 projects!
- **Attend all four & get 8.5 hours of CEC!**

Please reserve your space for January using the link below:

[Click here to reserve your space at the January 8th meeting!](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1131667688617&format=html&print=true)

We need soups to be donated. Please email Mary Poulter ([poultermk76@gmail.com](mailto:poultermk76@gmail.com)) if you are willing to donate a soup. You can earn one hour of volunteer time for soup prep.

[Click here to reserve your space at the January 8th meeting!](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1131667688617&format=html&print=true)

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It's time to order
**Polk County Master Gardener**

**T-shirts & Sweatshirts!**
Please pre-order & pay by December 13th!

**CLICK HERE to print the form and instructions.**

Pre-orders help us balance our finances AND you are ensured of getting the size and style you want. Prices range from $15 for a crew neck t-shirt to $40 for a hooded sweatshirt.

Please note that the v-neck t's run small and have a tailored fit. Consider ordering a size larger than usual if you want this style.

**Need a new name badge? Prefer to have a magnetic clasp for your badge? Use the same form to make those requests as well!**

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**Yes, New MG Directories are available!**

*Stop in during open hours to pick one up at the front desk. Directories are only available to PC MG & Interns so you must be currently certified to receive a copy.*

Have you moved, changed phone numbers, or updated your email address?

Please make those changes in the Volunteer Recording System ---AND email Ike so our PC MG directory also get updated!

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**Nominating Committee**

First draft of a Steering Committee (SC) nomination and election process was review by the SC at the November meeting and decided some changes were needed. Those changes are being incorporated into the procedures for review at the January SC meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominating Committee Co-chairs:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosie Surber: <a href="mailto:rms50112@gmail.com">rms50112@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Helvey: <a href="mailto:bob@tsmcgrp.com">bob@tsmcgrp.com</a></td>
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Demonstration Garden

The Demonstration Garden has been put to bed for the season with materials put into storage, the water lines emptied and the roses covered and entering their winter slumber. Thank you to all our volunteers that assisted in the maintenance of the garden this past season. We could not have done it without you.

As colder temperatures arrive, remember to take time to relax and appreciate the world of nature during the winter season. Snow can be beautiful!

Happy Holidays to everyone. We look forward to seeing you again in 2019!

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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</thead>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Discovery Garden
"I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again." ~ Lewis Carroll ~

Hello all. Once again, we say **Thank you to each and every one of you** who have contributed in any way in making our Discovery Garden another successful entity in 2018!

**Upcoming Projects:**

- Two 5th year students from the ISU's School of Architecture and Design will soon be starting a project to map out each garden bed on graph paper in order to provide a planning tool for our Bed Teams to use when determining future plant material orders.
- Tunnel changes - a flooring material change will be tested this winter.
- Milky Spore will be tested in the Children's Bed and Rose Bed next year. This may help with the Japanese Beetle Problem.
- Bone Meal will be tested on select Hydrangeas for better blooming potential.

We would like to once again pay our respects to Rudy Roe, Co-Chair Jean Roe's husband, who passed away on October 29, 2018. Rudy was a great supporter of our Discovery Garden and his presence will be missed. Our thoughts, prayers and blessings continue for Jean.
Save the Date:
Thursday, August 8 through Sunday, August 18, 2019 - 2019 Iowa State Fair

Co-Chairs:
Dean Brand  drbrand@mediacombb.net  tel: 515-360-0774
Earl Hinnekamp 19earl53@gmail.com  tel: 515.443.0010
Jean Roe  ljroe@g.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

Garden Tour 2019
It's time to plan next year's tour!

If you are interested in helping to plan next year's tour please contact Jodie Hand by e-mail for more information. We will have a Spring meeting sometime in February or March of next year. Stay tuned for details!

Our target area for the 2019 Tour will be Ankeny and Bondurant, with a tentative date of Saturday June 29th, 2019. If you are an active Master Gardener or Intern or will be in Spring 2019 and live in Ankeny or Bondurant and would like to be featured on the tour please let Jody know. We will be selecting gardens for the tour this Fall and will continue to make our tour selections this Spring. If you have any questions about being a host garden please contact Jodie by e-mail.

Thank you!

Garden Tour Co-chairs:
Jodie Hand (Primary) - jodiemariehand@gmail.com
Eric Hand (Secondary)  eric.hand@caseys.com

2019 Bus Tours
SAVE THE DATES!

https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1131667688617&format=html&print=true
Mark your calendars for the PCMG bus trips in 2019! We're still putting the final plans together for both trips, so here are just a few highlights. **Registration information will be available in January, 2019.**

**Saturday, May 25 is a one-day excursion in the Central Iowa area featuring 5 private gardens and a few other fun stops.**

- Meet a father and son who specialize in hybridizing iris and see both of their gardens
- View as much of an 8 acre property as time allows
- Sniff peonies galore
- Visit plants you may have seen on our trip to Madison, Wisconsin a few years ago at Ed Lyons' garden. Ed moved many of his plants to Ames when he joined the staff at Reiman Gardens.

**Saturday and Sunday, June 22 and 23, is a one-night overnight trip to the Dubuque, Iowa area.** We'll join the Dubuque County MG garden tour (which includes 6 private gardens), along with stops at the Dubuque Arboretum, a large butterfly garden, and (of course) some plant nurseries.

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

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**December office hours for Ike**

*Our office will be closed on the following dates for winter holidays:*

- **December 24 & 25**
- **January 1, 2019**
- **January 21, 2019**

Phone: 515-957-5761
by email: nancyike@iastate.edu

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https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1131667688617&format=html&print=true
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