Hats off to the Master Gardeners who featured their work on the 2015 PCMG Garden Tour! The gardens were all fabulous and represented a wide variety of landscapes and gardening techniques. Special thanks to Garden Tour Committee Chair Michelle Walke and to all of her various subcommittee members, as well as to the Master Gardeners who worked in advance of the Tour and on Tour day. The PCMG Garden Tour is central to our organization's educational mission and is our second biggest annual fundraiser. Please start thinking now about how you might help with next year's Tour.

The Tour gardens and your own garden will surely look different as the month of July progresses, especially if you are a vegetable gardener, because things really get into swing as the weather gets hot. In my garden, despite my best efforts at control, there is often a rapid and unsightly transformation from regular rows of order to Little Shop of Horrors. The cucumbers, beans, zucchini, and tomatoes intertwine and overlap like some ISU plant-breeding experiment gone horribly wrong. By month's end, Tarzan will say of my garden: "Matt, it's a jungle out there!"

**Assistance Please!**

A volunteer organization is only as good as those who provide leadership. That's what makes PCMG such a great place to be a volunteer. In the case of PCMG, we have nine on-going projects to fulfill our mission to provide research-based horticulture information to the public. With most of the projects, leadership is shared by 3 or 4 co-chairs who divide the responsibilities as best fits their talents.

For all of us, life brings changes and, from time to time, some folks who have been leaders need to shift their focus to other areas. We've had leadership changes during the past year at both the Enabling Garden and the Demonstration Garden. This year, a leadership transition is underway at the Greenhouse, and we need to begin a similar transition for the Garden Tour Committee.

If you feel you have skills which could assist with a project as part of a leadership team, please contact me (current steering committee chair), Sherri Soich (steering committee vice chair) or Mary Farlow. That will help us know who to contact as "positions" open up. And if you have someone you think you would enjoy sharing responsibilities with, let us know that as well.

**Matthew Dore, Steering Committee Chair, matt.dore@drake.edu**
PS from Matt

The worst thing about July gardening is waiting for tomatoes. We may have some sweet corn by July 4, but what about that all-important, terribly-precious, first ripe tomato? Will it be August before it comes? I hope not. As you wait for your garden produce to mature, you might enjoy the following tomato-ripening tale from Cajun Country where I grew up.

Young Miss Thibodeaux was a beautiful and buxom young woman growing her first vegetable garden. Everything looked great, especially Miss Thibodeaux's tomatoes, but they just wouldn't get ripe. After eating fried green tomatoes for weeks, Miss Thibodeaux grew particularly frustrated when she wandered into the yard of lecherous old Boudreaux, the gardener who lived next door. Boudreaux's tomatoes were all pink, red and orange everywhere she looked. When Boudreaux heard Miss Thibodeaux explain her tomato problem he laughed and said, 'Mais I know jus' what you need to do. You gotta' embarrass dem tomatoes into gettin' ripe! Tonight's a full moon. Go out to de garden at midnight. Take all your clothes off and prance around de garden in your birthday suit. Dose tomatoes gonna' turn red real quick!'

Boudreaux, of course, planned to spy on Miss Thibodeaux from his back porch that night, but his conscience got the better of him as he said his prayers before bed. Still, the next morning Boudreaux saw the young Cajun Belle on the street and couldn't resist asking her, "So you try da trick for your tomatoes?" "I surely did!" Miss Thibodeaux replied with a smile. "So did it work? asked Boudreaux? "Mais it didn't help de tomatoes none," Miss Thibodeaux said, "But my cucumbers! Dey all grew four inches overnight!!"

If it isn't true, it oughta be! May your tomatoes ripen before all of your cucumbers quit!

Matthew Dore, Steering Committee Chair, matt.dore@drake.edu

Greenhouse

We've received several inquiries about when you can return pots and flats. In front of the greenhouse is a recycle bin specifically for pots and flats. We will empty it on a regular basis. It's available to you 24/7. Please do not load it with broken pots or flats, just reusable ones. Only return pots 4" or smaller.

The seed ordering process for 2016 will begin very shortly so start thinking about your bed plans for next year. Garden co-chairs have been sent a description of procedures that will be used for ordering seeds. Garden co-chairs will be receiving current catalogs from our seed vendors before the seed ordering process begins. One of the co-chairs for each garden will be the designated contact person for the Greenhouse Committee. This is being done to eliminate as much confusion as possible and to be sure the co-chairs are aware of any problems or changes. Please direct questions, concerns, or suggestions you have to your designated garden contact. If you are unsure about who it is, please direct that question to your garden co-chairs.

Co-Chairs: Alda & Bob Helvey 515-224-6424 bob@tsmcgrp.com
Cheryl Fridl 515-979-0635 cfidl@aol.com
Jean Schustek 515-255-7892 jean.schustek@gmail.com
Demonstration Garden

The summer schedule is in full swing at the Demo Garden. Our "How Does the Garden Grow?" series continues at 7 p.m. on Thursday nights. On July 2nd the topic is "Roses, Roses, Roses" with gardening author Elvin McDonald. (This presentation was originally scheduled for what turned out to be a rainy evening in June.) Also, please join us for our annual open house on Thursday, July 16th, from 6:00 p.m. until dusk. The Des Moines Guitar Club will once again be providing music, and various demonstrations will be featured throughout the garden. Don't forget to wear your garden hat - there will be a prize for the best hat!

Looking ahead to August 6th, our education series will end with an "Art in the Garden Challenge." This year, the challenge is focused on birdhouses, designed from whatever materials you choose: decorate a store-bought model, renovate an older model, or come up with your own design using new or recycled materials. Let your imagination be your guide! On a practical note, many thanks to Colleen Sattler and her crew for giving the garden benches a fresh coat of paint. Those benches are now beckoning visitors to sit and stay awhile.

Finally, if any Master Gardener could use a bucket or a truckload of rich topsoil, we still have a nice pile on the west side of the Demo Garden. Please help yourself.

Co-chairs in training:
Diane Ackerman fridafolks@aol.com
Ruth Doxon rdoxon@gmail.com
Susan Travis eagles.wind@gmail.com

Enabling Garden

Our Season of Learning at the Enabling Garden continues this month with our children's program:
Wanted Small Hands Artist, on Tuesday, July 21st at 6:00 - 8:00 PM, will feature our talented Master Gardeners Gary and Marlene Olson. They, along with several other master gardeners will be helping children to showcase their creativity with easy artistic projects! Please bring your kids and join us for this fun hands-on talk. There is no charge for this event and it will be a great time for you to check out the progress on our Children's Garden. Exciting updates have been made!

Yoga in the Garden continues on select Saturdays during the summer months provided by Blue Lotus Yoga. Please join us on the following Saturdays: July 18th and August 29th for all-levels yoga. Grab your yoga mat, a bottle of water and friend to get your weekend started with stretching, strengthening and relaxation. The class is free, but we encourage participants to bring a non-perishable food item as a donation to the Caring Hands Outreach Center.

June was a busy month for the Enabling Garden, where we entertained a number of tours and events. We were blessed to host the Cass County MGs, Red Hat Ladies, and the Altoona Area Chamber of Commerce's Wine & Craft Beer fest. Thank you to all of the volunteers that so willingly give of your time to act as the Garden's ambassadors for each of these events.

Our regular work nights at the Enabling Garden are on Tuesdays, so plan to join us starting 5:00 PM, weather permitting. Please join us for fun, food and fellowship in the garden.
Thanks again to all of our volunteers that help to make the garden beautiful.

EG Co-Chairs: Christine Barker, Sandie Hamilton, & Sharon Schoonover
**Garden Tour**

The annual PCMG Garden Tour was held on June 20. Three hundred fourteen tickets were sold.

On behalf of the Garden Tour Committee, I would like to thank the Host Gardeners for another successful garden tour. All of the gardens looked fantastic! Also many thanks to the garden preparation and tour day volunteers who helped make the day a success. It just couldn't have happened without you! I would like to extend a big "Thank you!" to the Garden Tour Committee - Tami Fletcher, Jessica Fish, Theresa Greiner, Mary Brown Mehalovich, Troy Peters, Beth Kramer Redding, Karen Tandy, Kathy Winter, Jim Winter, and Mary Lou Woods. They worked hard to organize a top-notch event and managed to have fun while doing so!

Again, many thanks to the Garden Hosts - Agape Gardens, Don Glassman, Ken & Shirley Sailer, Julie Christian, Eric & Jodie Hand, Jim & Kathy Winter.

If you are interested in additional copies of the full-color 2015 PCMG Garden Tour guidebook, they are available at the Extension Office.

Are you interested in being a chair or co-chair of the 2016 Garden Tour? Please contact Sherri Soich sherrisoich@gmail.com.

**Michelle Walke, Garden Tour Chair**

**Polk County Fair**

**WANTED: NOTE TAKERS**

**ATTENTION:** Parents, grandparents, leaders, teachers, or any friends of 4-H!

On Wednesday, July 22, 2015 learn first-hand what a judge looks for in a particular project/exhibit area on Conference Judging Day by taking notes on judges' comments. Blocks of time will be: 8:00a-12:00p and 12:00p-4:00p. Please choose a time other than the period of time when club members you know are assigned to be evaluated in the 4-H building.

Here are the project areas to choose from:
- Ag, Animal & Natural Resources/Science, Engineering & Technology
- Child Development, Consumer Management & Health
- Clothing, Sewing, Needle Arts
- Food & Nutrition
- Home Improvement
- Horticulture (vegetables & floral)
- Music & Visual Arts
- Personal Development
- Photography

To sign up or ask questions, please contact Katie Beary at kbeary@iastate.edu preferably before July 15.
Bus Trips

Please join our bus tour group as we head to the St. Louis area August 7th to the 9th. We have a full agenda planned with great public and private gardens to visit, along with shopping opportunities at some of the best nurseries in the St. Louis area. We must have your completed registration form and payment in order to hold your spot on the tour. The registration form is available on the Polk County Master Gardener website. This looks to be a very popular trip destination, so you will not want to wait to send in your registration.

Chair: Laurie Barrick barrick8792@msn.com

Discovery Garden

The Garden is growing and getting ready for the Fair, hopefully the adequate rain and warm temps will continue. We will also have three educational events on the first, the eighth, and the fifteenth. We will be learning about different uses for herbs, unusual vegetables, and permaculture, so grab a lawn chair and come and join us. The sessions will begin at six pm and we are usually finished by seven.

Sign up for shifts at the fair will begin July first. Contact Jean Roe at ljroe@q.com or 279 8705.

Happy Fourth.

Upcoming Dates:
Every Wednesday is a Work Day (any time) or Work Night from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Wednesday, July 1st - Iowa State Fair Discovery Garden Shift(s) Signup begins
Wednesday July 1st - Discovery Garden Educational Session immediately follows the work night at 6:00 pm, "Thinking Outside of the Kitchen, Herbal Products for Your Body" presented by Jocelyn Engman of Pickle Creek Farms
Friday, July 3rd, Saturday, July 4th and Sunday July 5th - Good Guys Car Show, the Fairgrounds will be closed without a pass
Wednesday July 8th - Discovery Garden Educational Session immediately follows the work night at 6:00 pm, "Unusual Vegetables for Your Garden" presented by Marcia Leeper
Wednesday, July 15th - Discovery Garden Educational Session immediately follows the work night at 6:00 pm with Beth Waage of Polk County Conservation on "Beginning Permaculture"
Wednesday, August 5th - Discovery Garden Open House and Pre-Fair Celebration
Sunday, August 9th - Last day for entrance to the Fairgrounds prior to the Iowa State Fair without a pass
August 13-23, 2015 - 2015 Iowa State Fair with a theme of "Fair Tour" and Color Scheme of lime green, kelly green, teal and tangerine.

Co-Chairs: Dean Brand drbrand@mediacombb.net  ph.: 515-360-0774
Jean Roe ljroe@q.com  ph.:515-205-8706  Patrick Schmitt schmittpatrickj@gmail.com  ph.: 515-279-9645  Cheree Tilton tiltoncm@gmail.com  ph: 515-262-0488
Central Iowa Water Garden Association (CIWGA) will feature 7 gardens on its Annual Tour July 18th. Ponds, Plants, Paradise will feature eastern Polk County gardens including a wonderful railroad garden and ending with a spectacular treehouse and water garden. Tickets are $10; kids 5 and under are free. Purchase tickets at the first garden 361 NW 58th Place in Des Moines or the Enabling Garden 1050 1st Avenue South in Altoona.

Proceeds benefit the water features the Club has and will install at local non-profit campuses. Please bring a food item or cash donation for the Food Pantry. For additional information, please contact Judy Anderson, at andrsnjudy@mchsi.com 278-0939

Des Moines School Garden Tours
Gardens are blooming in many schools in Des Moines! The Des Moines FoodCorps team is hosting school garden tours throughout the summer and into the fall to highlight the successes that can happen when you involve kids, education, and community into a garden. You are invited to attend one of these informal tours to learn about school garden design, programming, events, opportunities, and education happening at some of these sites. The first two tour dates are below!

Tuesday, July 7, 5:00 pm, Hillis Elementary- 2401 56th St. Des Moines
Tuesday, July 14, 4:00 pm, Moulton Elementary, 1541 8th St. Des Moines
For more information, please contact amyjoens@foodcorps.org

Home & Garden Show (February 11-14) and Home & Outdoor Living Show (March 11-13) are looking for volunteers to serve on a panel of experts and answer questions from attendees for roughly 30 minutes. Email me if you are interested, contact me for details.
Education Opportunities

ISU Summer Webinars

Polk County Extension and Outreach Office in Altoona will host these webinars from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on:

Tuesday July 14, Water in the Garden

and

Thursday August 27, Pollinators & Growing Herbs

Cost per session is $5.00 for Master Gardener households or $10.00 for non-MG households. Please pre-register by email to mfarlow@iastate.edu

Click to print and share Summer Webinar details

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2015 Public Classes at Polk County Master Gardener’s Gardens

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

June 25 Garden Design
Lisa Ogler, ISU Hort

July 2 Roses, Roses, Roses
Elvin McDonald, Author

July 9 What you Didn’t know about Begonias
Roger Bishop, Pinney Ridge

July 16 Open House
Various displays, music, refreshments

July 23 Earth Friendly Gardening Tips
Marcia Leeper

July 30 Preservation 101
Mary Kriso, ISU Nutrition & Wellness Specialist

August 6 Art in the 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!

July 1 Thinking Outside of the Kitchen
Jocelyn Engman, Pickle Creek

July 8 Unusual Vegetables for Your Garden
Marcia Leeper

July 15 Beginning Permaculture
Polk County Conservation’s Beth Waage

A Season of Learning
at the Enabling Garden
Located 1050 1st Ave South
Altoona
“Where Disabilities Become Abilities.”
May, June & July 2015 classes
start at 7:00 pm

June 23 Lessons learned from My Mother’s Garden
PCMG, Roger Erspelding

July 21 Children’s Art in the Garden 6-8 pm
PCMGs Gary & Marlene Olson

August 18 - 6 pm Celebrate Vegetables / Urban vegetable contest
PCMGs Bill & Judy Goshorn

September 13 – 1 to 4 pm Fall fundraiser
Enabling Garden Committee

ISU Summer Webinar Series
July 14, Aug 27
All 6:30 – 8:30 at Polk County Extension and Outreach office in Altoona. See PCMG web page for details.

Iowa State University
Extension and Outreach
Polk County

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.

Click to print and share Summer Events

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**Fall MG Classes**

The application process will be starting soon for ISU Master Gardener classes in Polk County starting in September 2015. If you know anyone who is interested and hasn't already emailed mfarlow@iastate.edu, please ask them to do so as soon as possible.

Polk County Conservation is some great classes and events this summer. See [here](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/news/emerald) for details and links.

Here’s a web site (www.e-gro.org) you can use for education hours. It’s maintained by several universities, including Iowa State, and periodically gives webinars. Those can be education hours. If you can’t participate in the webinar at the time it’s live, they catalog them so you can look at them at your leisure. Alda and I have participated in several of them and find them interesting and educational.

Bob Helvey

**EAB is close - so you may need to know**

Quarantine On Removing Trees and Tree Material

- The current quarantine regulations in place for removing tree material from your property-trimmings or an entire tree-apply to all hardwood trees, not just ash. Material, including chipped wood cannot be moved out of the state. Iowa DNR is further requesting that material not be moved across county lines.
- Burning may be an option but material needs to first be dry. Regulations on burning should be read carefully. Smoke from burning is also regulated and should be factor when considering what to do with plant material.
- Tree branches can be chipped and the material can be used as mulch. (Per Richard Jauron, ISU Horticulturist.) Mulched material can also be composted. Most tree service companies will provide chipping service for a fee.
- Links to resources on quarantine and burning regulations and many other related topics can be found at: [http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/Forestry/ForestHealth/EmeraldAshBorer.aspx](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/Forestry/ForestHealth/EmeraldAshBorer.aspx)

**Treatment Options for EAB**

- The effective treatment window for EAB using many of the pesticides and/or application methods has ended for 2015. A few treatments can be utilized into mid-August but property owners should [read the most recent FAQ](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/news/emerald-ash-borer-confirmed-polk-county) carefully before they purchase materials or services.


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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.