Down Cheryl's Garden Path

Happy Independence Day to everyone!

At the July 23rd Steering Committee meeting, the Steering Committee will start working on several internal projects to benefit the Polk County Master Gardener community. Two major goals to address is fundraising for the new greenhouse and continuing to grow and sustain the Master Gardener Program as a whole.

We will also be discussing how to become more effective and efficient. We will be brainstorming on how we can keep our membership engaged. Input from interns and certified Master Gardeners is welcome. Creating a leadership path within the committee is a topic. Recruiting volunteers for our projects is becoming a problem. Why is that? What needs of our membership is not being met? What do we need to change? A review of the projects most affected is the Demonstration Garden, Discovery Garden, Enabling Garden, Greenhouse and Plant Sale.

The fundraising for the greenhouse is crucial. Without the greenhouse, the garden projects will suffer and as the plant sale is our largest fundraiser, the projects listed above could be seriously impacted.

I would like to hear from our membership regarding your struggles in volunteering. Knowing what they are will give us a path to follow.
Polk County Master Gardeners'  
2018 Garden Tour was Saturday, June 30!

Saturday's tour was very well received!  
Eric and I visited all of the gardens throughout the day and our guests had lots of compliments for the gardens and the activities we had as well.

Host Gardens  
Thank you to Dean Brand, Ruth O'Connor, Enabling Garden, Sandie Hamilton, Randy Campbell, Kay Oliver, and Beth Jordan for sharing your gardens with us!

Guests & Ticket Sales  
Our early estimate based on attendance at the gardens is about 200 adults and about 15-20 children came out to the tour. We believe the heat played a major role in our attendance. However, those that did brave the heat were giving us lots of compliments!

We would like to thank all of our volunteers who braved the hot summer day on Saturday. Without all of your help we could not have put the tour on!

Help Us thank Local Businesses for Supporting Our Tour

These Retailers Sold Tickets for the Tour:

- Canoyer Garden Center - Grimes and Ankeny
- Goode Greenhouses
- The Woodsmith Store
- Hyvee - Altoona and Pleasant Hill

Organizations Who Purchased Ads for our Color Brochure  
And more thanks to the following companies who purchased ad space in our brochure which helped cover all of our tour expenses. Because of the ad sales, all of the money from ticket sales is profit! Thank you to:

- Lucille's Garden Center
- VanWall Group
- Goode Greenhouses
- Ted Lare Design Build & Garden Center
- Just Add Water
- Created in Johnston
- Perennial Gardens

We will begin brainstorming a different Polk County area to focus on next years tour soon (after a little break of course, putting on a big event like this wears you out!) I'm hopeful we will only improve on our attendance for next years tour and we plan to continue on as co-chairs of the event for next year. Our activities were very well received and we plan to build on them further for next year's tour!

Thank you to all of the host gardeners, committee members who volunteered hours and hours of planning, promoting and coming up with activities and to all of
our tour day volunteers again!

Eric and Jodie Hand
Garden Tour co-chairs

Garden Tour Co-chairs: Eric & Jodie Hand

Jodie Hand

- jodiemariehand@gmail.com 319-361-9224

Eric Hand

- eric.hand@caseys.com 515-291-1214

Art in the Garden 2018

Saturday, August 4th, 2018 - Demonstration Garden

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Just one month before Art in the Garden!
We are looking for volunteers in four time slots: set-up and tear-down, and two shifts during the event.

Sign up here.

Now we just need to let people know about this fundraiser, and we could use everyone's help. Go to our Facebook page (PCMG Art in the Garden) and click on "Events" (left side of the page). Then invite your Facebook friends. If all you MGs using Facebook do this we will reach thousands of people.

Finally, click here for a PDF of our poster. Please print it and post it at your work place, favorite coffee shop, etc.

Hope to see you all there!

Claire Sedovic
Swallowtail Jewellery
Lost Loons Studio
Just a few of the artists at our event on August 4th!

Art in the Garden Co-chairs:
Mary Howell-Williams: mhwphoto@mchsi.com
Katherine Howsare: howsarek@live.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 31st between 6:00 - 8:00 PM. It will feature our creative leaders and Master Gardeners, Gary and Marlene Olson. They, along with several other talented master gardeners will be helping children to showcase their creativity with easy artistic projects!

Please bring your kids or grandkids for "make and take" art projects. There is no charge for this event.

While we have had rain fairly recently, it has been pretty hot. We really appreciate your volunteer help with the water schedule. Our tender annual plants can’t take the wind and heat without a dose of water every few days.

Thanks to everyone that has volunteered to take one of the daily shifts watering.

Our regular work nights continue on Tuesdays, so plan to join us starting 5:00PM, 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.

Please connect with us on our website . . .

www.enablinggardenpcmg.org

. . . or keep up to date on current pictures, upcoming activities, or potential changes due to weather on our Facebook Group
Discovery Garden

It's hard to believe it is almost the Fourth of July and almost 6 weeks now until the Iowa State Fair!

The garden beds are looking great at our Discovery Garden, thanks to all of the hard work of our Master Gardener and Master Gardener Intern volunteers.

With all the rain, we now have a good crop of weeds in the garden beds and there are lots of trimming projects which need to be completed. So, if you are looking to earn any MG volunteer hours - please join us on Wednesday evenings for our work nights from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

The Iowa State Fair Shift Sign Up begins Wednesday, July 4th to Co-Chair Jean Roe. If you are interested in volunteering for a shift, please email the DG's email at discoverygardenpcmg@gmail.com and place Shift Sign Up in the Subject Line. If you volunteer for a shift at the Iowa State Fair, you will receive a free admission ticket into the Iowa State Fair as a thank you for sharing your time and talent. Shifts are for 4 hours - 8:00 am to Noon or Noon to 4:00 pm or 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm - each day of the State Fair which is Thursday, August 9th through Sunday, August 19th.

Upgraded Labels: A project is under way for upgrading the labels of our trees and shrubs in the Discovery Garden just in time for the State Fair.

Pre-Fair Celebration: Wednesday, August 1st will be our Pre-Fair Celebration with a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm.

Educational Sessions at the Discovery Garden: The Educational Session begins at 6:00 pm immediately following our Wednesday Work Night. Please bring your water bottle and join us under the shade of the Farm Bureau Pavilion! (Just a little east of the garden.)
- **Wednesday, July 11th** - "Learning About Lilies-It's About Time!" with Mark Riggs, Polk County Master Gardener and Bed Team Member of the Annual Grasses Bed at the Discovery Garden.

**Upcoming Dates:**

**Sunday, August 5th** - Last day for entrance to the Fairgrounds prior to the Iowa State Fair without a pass, contact a Co-Chair if necessary.

**Thursday, August 9 through Sunday, August 19, 2018** - 2018 Iowa State Fair

**Co-Chairs:**
Dean Brand  drbrand@mediacombb.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/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/discoverygarden/)  
View our website:  [www.discoverygardenpcmg.org](http://www.discoverygardenpcmg.org)

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**Demonstration Garden**

Stop by the Demonstration Garden to view the **Tie Dye Clematis**. In recent years it was observed that its trellis simply was not large enough. This year it is taking advantage of every inch of the 7 foot obelisk installed over it in spring.

With all the warmth and the rain, the plants have really taken off and that includes the weeds. If you are up to a bit of pulling, there are more than enough to go around.

**Thank you to all our volunteers that assisted this past month. We could not have done it without you.**

The Demonstration Garden is a prime viewing spot for the City of Urbandale's Independence Day fireworks display. Come take in the view and allow yourself some extra time to stroll around the garden and see what it has to offer this year.

There is no education program on the first Thursday of July since it is a holiday week with Independence Day Holiday right in the middle.

**On July 12th we will be having our annual Open House.** There will be demonstrations on:

- Building a Bean Trellis (using re-purposed bike rims)

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Worm Composting
Carnivorous Plants
Constructing a Terrarium
Garden Composting
Summer Beverages Infused with Herbs

In addition the Heart of Iowa Classical Guitar Society will be providing music. This is a family friendly event and children our welcome. Activities include composting education, sidewalk chalk and a scavenger hunt. At the end of the hunt children may stop by the refreshments tent to select a prize out of the treasure chest. For additional details view the flyer here.

Education classes resume on Thursday, July 19th with a program on Native Plants. The July 26th topic is Floral Arranging.

View the full flyer for the lecture series here.

We look forward to seeing you in July!

Visit our website and Like our Current Facebook page:

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

Demo Garden Co-Chairs:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</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>
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<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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Garden Talks & Other Continuing Education

View Summer Webcasts at the Polk Co. Extension Office on the Following Tuesdays:

- July 24: Insects & Tree Care

View the annual one-page flyer of all garden talks and events here.

Paper copies of the summer education talks are available at the gardens and at the Polk County Extension Office.

Iowa Master Gardener Summer Webcasts
Free & open to the public.

Each date will offer two showings: at 1:00 & 6:00. Each date offers two hours of continuing education credit.

View Summer Webcasts at the Polk Co. Extension Office on the Following Tuesdays:

- July 24: Insects & Tree Care

 Reserve your seat:

Please specify date, time, names and a daytime phone number --please email: nancyike@iastate.edu (preferred)
or by phone: 515-957-5761.
New! Beaverdale Farmers' Market!

_We'll have a small booth about once per month!_

The Farmers Market Days in Beaverdale are **Tuesdays evenings**. Our schedule for Beaverdale varies a little but the dates are listed in the [SignUp app](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1130839101658&format=html&print=true)

**We're Glad to Have Lot's of Volunteers --but schedules can change . . .**

While the dates are currently filled, sometimes they open up again, so check-in from time to time, just in case!

And, since the dates are listed in the registration link, this is also a way to see when we're there so you can visit us!

**About our Booth**

Two shifts--early shift sets up the booth, late shift it down. Similar to the Downtown Market booth, we'll have some seasonal topics to feature. Contact a co-chair if you want more information.

**The music is good, the food is great and everyone has a good time! Anyone and everyone is welcome to participate in this fun volunteer activity!**

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**Beaverdale Farmers' Market Co-chairs:**

Marietta Rives: mariettarives@hotmail.com

Susan Walkup: sjbdsw@icloud.com

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**Des Moines Downtown Farmers' Market 2018**

The **2018 Des Moines Downtown Farmers' Market Season is here!**

Our remaining Downtown Farmers' Market outings of the season are scheduled for the **third Saturdays of each month**. Those date are:

- July 21
- August 18
- September 15

At the moment, we have a full complement of volunteers for these dates, but that frequently changes as our outing dates approach. Please check [Signup.com](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1130839101658&format=html&print=true) to see whether there are open slots if you are interested in volunteering to help.

Also, if you have ideas about gardening topics we should feature at the Market, please share your suggestions with us!

**Thank you!**
DsM Downtown Farmers’ Market Co-chairs:
Matt Doré: matt.dore@drake.edu
Sherri Soich: sherrisoich@gmail.com
Randy Campbell: campbellrd@mchsi.com

Program Committee

Save the Date:

Annual Harvest Celebration is Thursday, October 18th!

The program committee will meet in early September to plan for the October Harvest Celebration, watch for more details in upcoming newsletters!

Enjoy your summer projects!

Program Committee Chair: Mary Poulter
poultermk76@gmail.com

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

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**July Office Hours for Ike**

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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

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