Greetings Gardeners!

A shout out to the five people (Jan Hendrickson, Jim Meisch, Rhonda Murphy, Nancy Milton, Mary Rolfes) who have volunteered to be a Polk County Master Gardener Ambassador! If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador, reach out to me at bob@tsmcgrp.com.

The Fall Harvest Celebration is not in sync with reporting deadlines for Awards Service Recognition and reporting of annual volunteer hours. Because of that, award recognition that is volunteer hours based will be moved to a Spring Awards Ceremony in April. This ceremony will fall under the leadership of the Program committee. We will still have a Fall Harvest Celebration that will include recognition of new Steering Committee elected positions, reports on the activity of each project/program, recognizing special wards that are not volunteer hours based, an opportunity to talk with other gardeners, and share a dinner.

Next month begins an exciting event. The nomination and election process for four management positions on the Steering Committee: Chair Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and two at-large positions: Over Five-Year Master Gardener, and Most Recent Class Master Gardener. So, start thinking about anyone you might want to nominate for any of these positions, including yourself. If you want more information about the processes and job descriptions for the positions to be filled, go to our website, and in the lower right corner of the home page you’ll find a link to a description of the entire process.
May Profile of a PCMG : Jan Hendrickson

Like many Master Gardeners, Jan grew up on a farm. That gave her a first introduction to gardening. A wide variety of flowers and vegetables.

Jan's professional track took her to the health field. She says taking care of people and taking care of plants are very similar. Both need care, nurturing, food, and encouragement. If not a full garden, she’s had at least a bed every where she’s lived, even if she was renting.

Her road to becoming a Master Gardener was a little different then others but achieved the same result. She was a 4-H leader and many of her meetings were at the Extension Office. While there, she saw posters and flyers about the Master Gardener Program and began to research it. She was hooked and in 2013 took the plunge and joined the program. No regrets.

She has many volunteer avenues, but the majority of her time is spent at the Enabling Garden. Her bed includes the coffee tree next to the Mantis. Also, in her bed are hostas, lilies, grape hyacinth, native grasses, tomatoes, peppers, magnolia bush, and several annuals in pots. While working her bed, she loves to take time to talk with visitors answering questions about her plants, giving them gardening advice, and talking about the Master Gardener program.

She also likes to volunteer at the greenhouse, and Discovery Garden during the fair. Jan was the first person to volunteer for our new Ambassadors program. Her favorite Master Gardener things are the community fellowship, learning opportunities, and sharing knowledge with and from other gardeners.

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

Ike is Retiring this Thursday!
Open House Reception: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Thursday, June 6th
Polk County Extension Office.

Ike's Cell: 515-681-9506
e-mail: bizzyike@yahoo.com
Save these Dates!

Education Hours

at the Urbandale Library!

Mondays in July!

Free, open to the Public (2 hours of CEC each date).

Please call the library to ensure there is adequate seating: 515-278-3945

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, July 1st</td>
<td>Ecology Plus Diversity: Designing w/ Plants that Mimic Nature</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 1st</td>
<td>Give your Garden Wings: Pollinator Best Practices</td>
<td>2:15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 8th</td>
<td>Vegetable Garden FAQ: Answers to Common Garden Questions</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 8th</td>
<td>Vegetable Garden Pest Management*</td>
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* This is a re-showing from February 6th. Poor weather kept many from missing this great webcast!

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The Annual Garden Talks Calendar is READY

Pick one up at the Plant Sale, either of our Farmers' Market booths, or at the Extension Office.

Or simply, CLICK HERE to read or print a copy!

(photograph of the exhibit is below)
Farmers' Markets!

* * * * * * *

Downtown Farmers' Market

Our first appearance of the season at the Downtown Farmers' Market was Saturday, May 18. We escaped major rains and saw about 200 visitors over the course of the morning. Our feature topic was "Planning Vegetable and Flower Beds." We answered lots of questions on that topic, as well as on a variety of other gardening matters.

We also gave away lots of free seeds, but our supplies are running low, so if any of you have seeds to contribute or know of a source for seeds, please let one of us know. We're often able to get garden centers and retailers (like HyVee) to donate leftover seed packets from prior years. Our Booth visitors are not picky about dates--so long as the price of the seeds is "free."

At the moment it appears that our volunteer spots are filled for our next Market appearance date (June 15), but please check our volunteer page on Signup.com as June 15 approaches, as volunteers sometimes change their plans.

If you have any suggestions for gardening topics we should feature at upcoming appearances, please let us know. We'd love to feature any of you if you're willing to explain your gardening passion to our visitors!
Other Downtown Farmers' Market dates are:

- June 15
- July 27
- Aug. 17
- Sept. 21

Thanks!

*P.S. reminder from Ike:* only **volunteer** hours for Farmers' Market. Researching answers and other self-study do **NOT** qualify for continuing education credit per the Master Gardener Volunteer Manual.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmers' Market Co-chairs:</th>
<th>Matt Dore: <a href="mailto:matt.dore@drake.edu">matt.dore@drake.edu</a></th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sherri Soich: <a href="mailto:sherrisoich@gmail.com">sherrisoich@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Randy Campbell: <a href="mailto:campbellrd@mchsi.com">campbellrd@mchsi.com</a></td>
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Beaverdale Farmers' Market

Needs Volunteers!

4133 Urbandale Avenue

Tuesdays: 4:00 - 7:30 pm

Polk County Master Gardeners' will also be answering questions on home lawn and gardens at their booth at the Beaverdale Farmers' Market. The market is located at the corner of Beaver and Urbandale Avenues in Des Moines. Yes - these hours count toward volunteer requirements.

Dates for the Beaverdale Booth:

- June 4
- June 18
- July 2
August 6

Volunteers Needed!
There are two shifts on the selected dates to help set-up or take down the booth, share information about gardening and the PCMG program, and enjoy the music, food and fun! Sign up for a volunteer spot here!

Chair: Marietta Rives mariettarives@hotmail.com 515-778-7595

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Bus Trips

NEW INFORMATION FOR JUNE BUS TRIP!

June 22 and 23 we are traveling to the Dubuque, Iowa area. Our featured private garden tours are on the Dubuque Tour of Gardens. This annual event is put on by the Dubuque County Master Gardeners and Dubuque Gardeners, INC. We joined a local tour a few years ago and received great feedback from those on the trip so we're trying it again. See below for info about two of the six gardens we'll visit.

If you're interested in joining the June tour, please send in your registration by June 10. The registration form can be found here. Check out the updated registration form for more details on the trip.
• **NEIGHBORS BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS** - Nestled in the heart of the Washington Neighborhood, this community garden provides neighbors and organizations a space to build relationships around food and gardening. It was started in 2012. In 2018, this garden produced over 1,000 pounds of produce. With no water or electricity, this garden relies on sustainable practices.

• **PEACEFUL HIDEAWAY** - The backyard doubles as a peaceful retreat and an entertainment area. Pet chickens provide breakfast as well as compost materials. A pergola, dry creek, butterfly garden, dozens of flowers, and bed raised gardens provide beauty and interest at every turn.

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**Demonstration Garden**

The Demonstration Garden has been planted for the season. The half inch of rain post planting was greatly appreciated. Next steps include routine watering, weeding and general garden maintenance. Please join us on Monday evenings and if that does not work for you contact a co-chair for a listing of priority items you can do on your own time.

The City of Urbandale has made some grant money available for a shed addition. **If you have an interest in assisting in the project as it progresses over the next couple of months, please contact Sandie Sydnes.** Tasks include prepping for and pouring the slab, framing walls and roof, shingling, put up trim and siding, painting, expanding the patio, etc. to name a few. Details of dates and times will be emailed as the permit process progresses.

Join us in June for our summer education series on Thursday evenings. **Start time 7pm.** Bring your own lawn chair or sit at one of the picnic tables available.

- June 13th - Organic Bug and Disease Control with Sadie Todd
- June 20th - Raised Bed Gardening with Megan Will
- June 27th - Improving Water Quality and Conservation in Your Back Yard with Julie Perreaut

There will be **no program on Thursday, July 4th** however you are welcome to stop by, tour the garden and enjoy one of the best viewing location for the City of
We look forward to meeting you in the garden.

Visit our website and Like our Current Facebook page:

http://www.demonstratıongardenpcmg.org/
https://www.facebook.com/demonstratıongarden/

Demo Garden Co-Chairs:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Email</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
A Hidden Gem

Around the Pond. Photo: courtesy of Co-Chair Dean Brand

We would like to send out a Bravo and Thank You to our Rose Bed Team: Steph McAdams, Karen McGregor, Aaron Menick, and Mardi Lawson, along with those who helped plant the new roses on Sunday, May 19th. We are excited to see how these grow and mature in time for our Iowa State Fair! We would also like to thank Baileys who donated this year's new crop of roses. In other news, we are currently working on an updated look to our Tunnel. The new design and flooring should ease the traffic through the Tunnel especially during the Iowa State Fair where we receive thousands of visitors each day.

A special note: All of our Discover Garden Educational Sessions take place rain or shine at the Farm Bureau Shelter/Building which is a short walk from the Discovery Garden
at the State Fairgrounds. The session dates are noted below and begin at 6:00 pm immediately following a Wednesday Work Night. This is a great way for MG's to obtain continuing education hours. If you want to get a bonus, volunteer some time before the educational session and receive volunteer hours as well! Win Win!

Upcoming Dates:

**Regular Wednesday Work Nights** continue from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

**Wednesday, June 5th through Friday, June 7th** - please note the Pork Expo at the State Fairgrounds has been cancelled so access to the Discovery Garden will not be compromised during this weekend.

**The week of June 9th** - Garden Mulch should be delivered

**Wednesday, June 12th** - 6:00 pm, a program on Owls will be presented by Patti Peterson-Keyes, Environmental Education Coordinator with Polk County Conservation.

**Monday, July 1st** - State Fair Volunteer Signup Begins - MG volunteers receive a ticket for entry into the Iowa State Fair in appreciation for working a volunteer shift at the Discovery Garden during the Iowa State Fair. The Iowa State Fair is August 8 through 18. Typically, there are 4 MG volunteers working a 4 hour shift ~ shifts are 8 am to Noon or Noon to 4 pm or 4 pm to 8 pm. MG volunteers may choose whether to report this time as 4 hours of volunteer time or 1 hour of continuing education and 3 hours of volunteer time. This is a great way to earn some of those hours and enjoy the rest of the day at the Iowa State Fair.

**Friday, July 5th through Sunday, July 7th** - Good Guys Car Show - the State Fairgrounds will be closed and you may not enter unless you have a special pass, please contact any Co-Chair, if necessary.

**Wednesday, July 10th** - 6:00 pm, a program on Designing with Native Plants will be presented by Meredith Nunnikhoven with Barn Swallow Flowers, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

**Wednesday, July 17th** - 6:00 pm, a program on Unusual Trees and Shrubs for Iowa Landscapes will be presented by Barry Laws, Operator of Quilted Gardens & Nursery, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Thursday, August 8 through Sunday, August 18, 2019** - 2019 Iowa State Fair

*Enjoy this day!*  
**Co-Chairs:**  
Dean Brand  [drbrand@mediacommb.net](mailto:drbrand@mediacommb.net)  tel: 515-360-0774
Enabling Garden

Our Season of Learning continues this month with our special guest, Dr. Donald Lewis from Iowa State University, who will be speaking on Good Bugs/Bad Bugs in the Home Garden. You may be surprised to find out that only 1-5% of the insects on earth are considered pests! Most are beneficial as predators, parasitoids, pollinators and recyclers. So grab a lawn chair and join us in the garden at **6:30 PM on Tuesday, June 25th**. All events are free. In the event of weather, please check Facebook or our website at: [www.enablinggardenpcmg.org](http://www.enablinggardenpcmg.org).

Our regular work nights haven't been too regular this year (yet) due to the weather. Nonetheless, please plan to join us on **any Tuesday late afternoons starting 4:30PM, weather permitting**. Please join us for fun, food and fellowship in the garden.

We are very grateful for our volunteers; you all are the key the Enabling Garden's continued success.

Please connect with us on our website . . .
[www.enablinggardenpcmg.org](http://www.enablinggardenpcmg.org)

. . . or keep up to date on current pictures, upcoming activities, or potential changes due to weather on our [Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/discoverygarden/)

Enabling Garden Co-Chairs:
Sandie Hamilton - bhamil7132@aol.com
Paula Winslow - peaceinthegarden@aol.com
Christine Barker - ccbbark1989@aol.com
Polk County Master Gardeners Garden Tour

Thank you to everyone who participated in our survey. We received some valuable feedback that will help us plan future events! If you'd like to view the results of the survey, please message Jodie and she will forward it to you!

Garden Tour is working on planning a tour for 2020. We have selected West Des Moines, Urbandale and Clive for our target area for the 2020 tour. The date of the tour will be Saturday June 20, 2020. If anyone who lives in that area and is interested in participating on next year's tour please contact Jodie!

The PCMG Garden Tour is an opportunity for active Polk County Master Gardeners (and interns) to showcase their home gardens and the community garden projects they participate in. Our purpose is to present those gardens and educate the community on different gardening practices. From humble container gardens to extravagant landscapes, there is a garden for everyone!

We are looking for well cared for gardens of all varieties: Vegetables, flowers, water features, landscaped yards, small space and container gardens as well as other unique gardens! If you need help with any garden planning, plantings please let Jodie know and we can get volunteers to help you! Even if you think you're garden "isn't good enough" there is something to share with others - we all start somewhere!

We will have an upcoming meeting on Wednesday June 26th, 2019 at the Johnston Public Library. All are welcome to attend this meeting and find out about helping with planning.

There will be lots of opportunity for leadership roles and volunteer opportunities that can be done in the comfort of your home while we make our tour selections and plan our tour! If you have an interest in helping with our website/social media, marketing, recruiting, advertising for our brochure, or planning activities for children and adults we are looking for your help!

Jodie is also looking for a co-chair who would be willing to help coordinate all of our subcommittees and planning for the tour!

Jodie Hand
Garden Tour Chair

*We do want the gardens to be in Polk County.

Garden Tour Co-Chairs:

Jodie Hand: jodiemariehand@gmail.com
PCMG Art in the Garden will return Saturday, Aug. 3, 2019, from 9-3 at PCMG Demonstration Garden in Urbandale.

This family-friendly event is co-sponsored by Urbandale Community Education. Food, music, learning opportunities (eligible for continuing education certification), free children's activities, and over twenty garden-themed art vendors will be available.

Opportunities for Master Gardeners will include volunteering in a number of roles, all of which are eligible for volunteer service hours, opportunities for continuing education hours, and a make and take projects. Vendors of photography, hand painted cards, jewelry, decorative yard art, iron sculptures, soaps, art glass, and pottery will be represented.

Art in the Garden profits all serve to support Polk County Master Gardener projects. Gardeners, families and volunteers can enjoy live entertainment, learn gardening skills, participate in hands-on activities, buy fun garden-themed art, and socialize with other Master Gardeners.

Please mark your calendars now. Volunteer signup will be open about 6 weeks before the event, and will be publicized through the Green Thumb.

Art in the Garden Chair:
Katherine Howsare: howsarek@live.com

Continuing Education from Your Home Computer
Iowa Master Gardener YouTube Channel

CLICK HERE to link to the page

* * * * *

Recorded Webcasts from Oregon State University Extension (OSU)

Master Garden Advanced Education Series are 1 hour each.

Link to Recorded OSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Series (prior years)

CLICK HERE

Community Event:
Beaverdale Garden Walk on Sat. June 15th

The Beaverdale Neighborhood Association will be hosting its biennial Garden Walk Saturday, June 15th from 9 AM to 3 PM, featuring 7 delightful gardens. Tickets, which will include a description of each garden and a map of their location will be available for $8 in advance or $10 on June 15th, at local Beaverdale businesses, including Backcountry Outfitters, Beaverdale Books, Boesen the Florist, Grounds for Celebration, and O'Donnell Ace Hardware. The neighborhood not only boasts of its charming brick homes, it also has avid gardeners who love to grow things. And while you might expect to encounter lots of shade gardens with lots of mature trees, you will also enjoy sun loving plants, brick and stone paths, unique garden art, vegetable gardens, playful chickens, as well as passionate gardeners who will love to talk to you about their ideas. Plan to take a walk, ride a bike, or hop in a car to enjoy the Beaverdale Garden Walk. Proceeds from ticket sales will be used for future beautification projects in Beaverdale.
Kalsa Parker Browning -- Natural Resources Program Coordinator

(Pronounced: Kel-sa)

Email: kparker@iastate.edu

Phone: 515-957-5768

A note for June:
I will be out of the office from June 17th-28th (on a previously scheduled vacation prior to accepting my new role here at Extension). If you send an email during this time I will do my best to get back to you promptly upon my return!

Happy gardening!

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