

# The Green Thumb

*Monthly Newsletter for Polk County Master Gardeners  
& Master Gardener Interns*

**Iowa State University Extension & Outreach--Polk County**  
1625 Adventureland Drive, Ste A  
Altoona, Iowa  
Phone 515-957-5761



## Down Cheryl's Garden Path

*My Garden is My Sanctuary*  
by  
Marie Church

As I look out to my garden  
I feel a sense of pride  
It really is a lovely room  
Except it is outside.

Where lovely things mix and match  
And greenery fills the walls  
The sound of trickling water  
Coming from the gold fish pond.

I love the sight of stones and rocks  
And driftwood and tree ferns to  
The sounds of all my chimes  
I know you would like it too.

With pride I walk around my garden  
And savour each scent and smell  
Colours of yellow, red and gold  
Striped cushion on a bench.

The bird bath has its own domain  
It's placed beside a wooden arch  
Where all the birds come to bathe  
And drink when they are parched.

Ladybirds can hide away  
Sometimes they come out to see  
What's happening around them  
With caterpillars and the bees.

There's not much more that I can say  
Except if you have your own  
It won't take long to build it up  
Seeds will bloom once they are sown.

**Cheryl Fridl**  
**Steering Committee Chairperson**

---

## Plant Sale

***This Weekend - May 4, 5, & 6!***

### **DONATIONS - HELP DESPERATELY NEEDED**

#### **WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF MORE DONATIONS PARTICULARLY PERENNIALS**

We know this has been an unusual spring, plants have been late deciding to show themselves and the rain isn't making things any easier, but your donations are where most of our profit comes from. In 2016 we had 1,200 perennials for sale. In 2017 we had 1,500. **To date this year we have not even reached the 500 mark.**

We know it's a big ask but if you can possibly get out there and dig, **we really need more of everything but particularly perennials.** There will be someone at the Greenhouses to take donations all day Wednesday, Thursday and Friday,

### **VOLUNTEERS**

There are still a few spots left: [Click this link to see which spots are available](#)

All volunteers should **wear a white shirt** to be readily identifiable to our customers. A 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.

### **PARKING**

Because of our unusual and somewhat challenging parking situation we want to encourage Master Gardeners who are coming to shop to **car pool to the sale** if possible.

### **DETOUR**

Keep in mind the road closure near the greenhouse: NW 70th, the street where the greenhouse is located, is closed on our west side: from 86th to the greenhouse.


**Detour if coming from the east on I-80:**

- take the 86th street exit
- drive north to NW 62nd
- turn left turn on NW 62nd, continue to a
- right turn onto NW 100th-- go through three roundabouts but stay in right lane to turn right onto NW 70th and continue to greenhouse.

If travelling from west, Hwy 141 is best route.

**Thank you all so much. I know that with your help we will once again be successful.**

Be sure to like and follow us, and share our event on [Facebook!](#)

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Plant Sale Co-chairs:</b></p> <p>Isabella Hurless-Banks: <a href="mailto:imhurless@aol.com">imhurless@aol.com</a> 515-205-0577          Jen Firtzlaff: <a href="mailto:skiier13@mchsi.com">skiier13@mchsi.com</a> 515-313-3418</p>
---	--

## Continuing Ed on Mushrooms TONIGHT!

**Thursday, May 3rd**  
**Bondurant Community Library**  
**104 2nd Street NE, Bondurant**  
**6:00 PM**  
**No reservations are needed**

### **Polk County Master Gardener Eddie Robinson**

Eddie Robinson will share information on identifying morels and other mushrooms that commonly grow in Iowa. He holds a certification from Iowa State in mushrooms identification.

Each year, thousands of people are poisoned by eating "false morels" so if you love fresh mushrooms, take time to learn how to tell the edible ones!



# Master Gardener Bus Tour

## REGISTER NOW FOR THE ONE DAY TRIP TO IOWA CITY!

**Saturday, June 2nd**

We have extended the registration date for our visit to the Iowa City area to **May 19th**. 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 opportunities 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.***

## REGISTRATION OPENING SOON 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. The registration form will be available on the Polk County Master Gardener next week.

### **Chair:**

Laurie Barrick [barrick8792@msn.com](mailto:barrick8792@msn.com) tel: 515-278-8792



---

## Demonstration Garden



**The weather has finally left winter behind and spring is starting its full display. Many daffodils are in bloom, the tulips are not far behind and perennials are breaking ground.**

We had a very productive spring clean up day in April thanks for the weather and a great turnout. **Thank you to everyone that participated, you made a difference.** Also a shout out to the city of Urbandale for providing us some extra curb compost bins for the day eliminating the need for purchasing compost bags and also for picking up all the tree and shrub debris from our spring pruning.

**Our first official work night is Monday, May 7th. Start time is 5 pm or whenever you can arrive.**

If you wish to volunteer at the Demonstration Garden and you are not available on Monday evenings, please connect with one of the co-chairs as we have many volunteer service opportunities available. Unfortunately the month of April got away from us and the pathway connector project did not get started. Hopefully we can get that underway in the next few weeks. The birdbath bubbler fountain should be up and running by the time you read this months edition of the Green Thumb.

Mark your calendars for the start of the summer education season on **Thursday June 7th with Dr. Tom Rosburg presenting on the topic of Invasive Species.** The following week on the 14th Central Iowa Organic Fertilizer will be presenting on the use of organic fertilizer and worm castings. **All sessions begin at 7 pm.**

**We are looking forward to a new season 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:**

<b>Ruth Doxon</b>	<a href="mailto:rdoxon@gmail.com">rdoxon@gmail.com</a>	<b>(515) 253-9115</b>
<b>Sandie Sydnes</b>	<a href="mailto:sasydnes@gmail.com">sasydnes@gmail.com</a>	<b>(515) 276-1497</b>

---

## **Discovery Garden**

**"inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow. All it takes is a rake and a hoe, and a piece of fertile ground." - The Garden Song by John Denver**

We should add lots of gardeners to the lyrics also. It is planting time and everyone is getting anxious to get the seeds and plants in the ground. In order to do that, you will need the plants to complete the task. So right now:

**plant pickup will be on Friday, May 18th, time to be announced.** Dean will be there to help with distribution. Plants from Central Floral and the City will be at the Discovery Garden.

**Other dates to remember:**

- May 12th: no access to the fairgrounds because of the Juvenile Diabetes Walk.
- May 23rd: First work night at the Garden
- May 30th: *Shade Gardens, Introducing Best Friends Forever To Your Hostas, Perennials, Annuals, and Shrubs* - with Marcia Leeper

**See you at the garden!**

**Co-Chairs:**

Dean Brand [drbrand@mediacombb.net](mailto:drbrand@mediacombb.net) tel: 515-360-0774

Jean Roe [ljroe@q.com](mailto:ljroe@q.com) tel:515.205.8706

Patrick Schmitt [schmittpatrickj@gmail.com](mailto:schmittpatrickj@gmail.com) tel:515.279.9645

**Like us on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/discoverygarden/>

**View our website:** [www.discoverygardenpcmg.org](http://www.discoverygardenpcmg.org)



## Enabling Garden

Looks like after a late bit of winter, we are finally starting to see some Spring weather. We had a phenomenal perennial sale on April 21st. Many thanks to Marlene and Gary Olson for spearheading this initiative! And we appreciate all of our volunteers that came out to help with sale.

Regular work nights at the Enabling Garden have started on **Tuesdays any time after 5:00 PM** to dark, weather permitting. Please join us for fun, food and fellowship in the garden.

### Couple of key dates to keep in mind for May:

- Enabling Garden **Annuals Planting day will be on Tuesday May 15th**. Please make plans to get your tender annual plants into the ground on this evening.
- Our **Season of Learning** starts this month with our special guest, Roger Bishop, who will present on Plant Propagation. This is your opportunity to hear about how you can turn one plant into many. **Bring a lawn chair and join us at 7:00 PM**

on Tuesday, May 29th for what is sure to be an informative and engaging discussion! ***This presentation is free and open to the public.***

**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](#)**

### **Enabling Garden Co-Chairs:**

- **Sandie Hamilton** - [bhamil7132@aol.com](mailto:bhamil7132@aol.com)
- **Paula Winslow** - [peaceinthegarden@aol.com](mailto:peaceinthegarden@aol.com)
- **Christine Barker** - [ccbark1989@aol.com](mailto:ccbark1989@aol.com)
- **Sharon Schoonoer** - [schoony35@aol.com](mailto:schoony35@aol.com)

---

## **Program Committee Notes**



**Thank you everyone for making this education season a success!**

**244 people attended the three events, with \$138.50 in donations received.**

The committee met after the April program night and already have plans forming for next year.

A great suggestion to save costs--and reduce what goes to the landfill: we'd like to request that you **bring your own cup/glass/bottle, or beverage to all events.** We'll still make coffee and offer water, but **go green** and reduce your environmental footprint!

### **Program Chair:**

<b>Mary Poulter</b>	<b><a href="mailto:poultermk76@gmail.com">poultermk76@gmail.com</a></b>	<b>(515) 674-3278</b>
---------------------	---	-----------------------

---

## **Des Moines Downtown Farmers' Market 2018**

**The 2018 Des Moines Downtown Farmers' Market season begins this month!**

**The first date for the PCMG Downtown Farmers' Market Booth is May 19.**  
We'll feature topics relating to spring planting, among others.

There are still three openings for volunteers to help out during the Booth's second shift (9:30 - 12:15). **Please sign up using the link [here](#).**

**Other dates for this season are:**

**June 16  
July 21  
August 18  
September 15**

**Thank you!**



### **DsM Downtown Farmers' Market Co-chairs:**

**Matt Doré:** [matt.dore@drake.edu](mailto:matt.dore@drake.edu)  
**Sherri Soich:** [sherrisoich@gmail.com](mailto:sherrisoich@gmail.com)  
**Randy Campbell:** [campbellrd@mchsi.com](mailto:campbellrd@mchsi.com)

## **New! Beaverdale Farmers' Market!**

***We'll have a small booth about once per month!***

The Farmers Market Days in Beaverdale are **Tuesdays evenings starting in June**. The PCMG will have an information booth *on just some of those Tuesdays*.

If you're interested in helping with the booth, [please sign up for a shift](#). Dates are listed on the registration--early shift will set up the booth, late shift will take down the booth. Additional information will be provided as needed!

**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!**



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

**Marietta Rives:** [mariettarives@hotmail.com](mailto:mariettarives@hotmail.com)  
**Susan Walkup:** [sjbds@icloud.com](mailto:sjbds@icloud.com)

## **Art in the Garden 2018**

**Saturday, August 4th, 2018 - Demonstration Garden**

**9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Our Art in the Garden 2018 fundraiser is beginning to take shape!**

We have several new and many returning vendors lined up, including makers of **garden art, jewelry, and photography**. We will be showcasing each vendor's art on

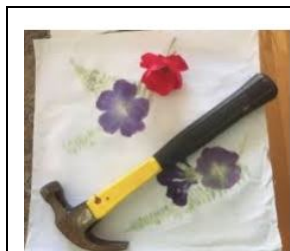


our [Facebook page](#) starting this month - **take a look!**

And besides taking home an beautiful piece of art, visitors will be able to make their own creative succulent containers, and pressed or hammered flower creation. Just like last year, there will be lots of free kid's activities, and everyone will be able to participate in making a piece of public art.

**We will start signing up volunteers to help with this event in June.**

***Hope to see you all there!***



### **Art in the Garden Co-chairs:**

Mary Howell-Williams: [mhwphoto@mchsi.com](mailto:mhwphoto@mchsi.com)

Katherine Howsare: [howsarek@live.com](mailto:howsarek@live.com)

## **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](http://www.pcmggardentour.com)

**If you are still interested in helping us put on the tour and work on the planning committee please contact Jodie Hand or come to our next meeting:**

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

**Sub-committees Meetings. . .**

**are held on Tuesday nights at Jodie Hands' home--6680 NW 54th Ct, Johnston**

- **Activities subcommittee: May 15th and 22nd at 6:30pm**

**Volunteers are needed to Help our Host Gardens get Ready!**

Help is needed **NOW** to prep gardens ahead of the tour.

**[Please sign up here.](#)**

You can VOLUNTEER to help prepare our host gardens any day from **TODAY- June 29**. Host garden sponsors will contact you about assisting with garden. (We will try our best to match you up with a host.) We'll need the most volunteers during June.

### **Helping on Garden Tour Day**

- Help set-up and manage children activities and demonstrations
- Greet visitors, take tickets
- Answer gardening questions
- Helpers needed for odd tasks throughout the day
- **to Sign-up! Select June 30th using the same link above. Shifts are morning or afternoon--but feel free to sign-up for the whole day!**

## Two Really Easy Ways to Help the Tour be Successful

1. **Tell your friends, neighbors, co-worker about this family-friendly event!** There are fun activities at every garden stop! Free make 'n takes for children--demonstrations for all ages. Adult (& youth 13 and above) tickets are only \$10--children 12 and younger are free with a ticketed adult.

Check out the details (and buy tickets) on the tour's website:

<https://www.pcmggardentour.com/>

2. **"Like" our Facebook and other social media pages and share them with your friends. Word of mouth is FREE publicity and it travels so fast through social media!**

<https://www.facebook.com/PCMGgardentour/>

Instagram: [pcmggardentour](https://www.instagram.com/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

## Tips on Entering Your Hours



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


**Thank your 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.

Quick search		Advanced Search		
		HID ↕	Date ↕	Location ↕
	1	<u>310082</u>	03/17/2018	Greater Dsm Botaniacal Gardens

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

Call me if you have questions! --Ike



## May Office Hours for Ike

<b>Monday</b>	<b>9:00 to 4:00</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9:00 to 4:00</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12:00 to 4:00</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9:00 to 4:00</b>
<b>by appointment</b>	<b>call or email me . . .</b>

Phone: 515-957-5761

by email: [nancyike@iastate.edu](mailto:nancyike@iastate.edu)

### 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](mailto:nancyike@iastate.edu) in collaboration with

**Constant Contact** 

Try it free today