Greetings Gardeners!

Last month's Green Thumb announced these potential two new committees asking for volunteers:

First, **Polk County Master Gardener Ambassadors**. The purpose is to present Polk County Master Gardeners and our projects to organizations in our community. For example, Kiwanis, Lions Club, Optimists, large employers, Art Center, and so forth. This committee would reach out to organizations who request to know more about us, as well as responding to speaker requests. A standard PowerPoint and elevator speech is on the list for development by Polk County Extension's Marketing Strategist.

Second, **Volunteer Engagement**. This committee’s purpose is to connect our volunteers with projects to earn volunteer hours by making phone calls or face-to-face meetings. It will also work with transfers from other counties and states and will touch base with Interns to make sure needs like carpenter skills and web development are properly utilized.

If either one of these committees appeals to you, or you have some thoughts or questions about them, reach out to me at bob@tsmcgrp.com or 804-357-7596. One person responded so we're still looking for people. I think these two committees are valuable and could help us recruit and retain Master Gardeners. By the time of the next Steering Committee meeting in May, if no one else has volunteered, I will report the lack of interest to the Steering Committee and suggest we no longer pursue those committees.
May Profile of a PCMG: Don Doxon

Don is part of the 2017 Polk County Master Gardener class.

He has been blessed to have lived in several different parts of our country and been exposed to a variety of environments. His first exposure to gardening was in the Colorado flat lands along the Arkansas River where his Mother encouraged him to help her tend to the garden she was maintaining for his Grandmother. The family moved to Peru, Nebraska, and at 9, Don had his own flower garden. Next stop was Holtville, California in the Imperial Valley. Don said to imagine Phoenix but considerably less picturesque. Here he grew pomegranates, citrus, and palms and some corn that grew to four feet tall!

The next two moves were Warren County, which had a 15' x 60' vegetable garden, and Polk County. Included in these moves was the person who convinced him to join the Master Gardeners, his wife, Ruth, Co-chair of the Demo Garden. He calls it coercion instead of convincing.

Most of Don's volunteer hours are at the Demonstration Garden where he has a variety of assignments. His responsibilities include the deer fence, pathway, raspberries, and grape arbor. Don is also a "hands on helper" at the pruning lab. Occasionally, he volunteers at the Greenhouse. The educational opportunities are what he enjoys most about being a Master Gardener.

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

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Plant Sale

This Week-- May 3, 4, & 5!
Time to Shop for Your Garden!

9401 NW 70th, Johnston

- Friday, 5:00 to 7:00 pm
- Saturday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Sunday, Noon to 4:00 pm

Plan to arrive from the WEST due to road work on 70th--watch for updated parking information later this week!

VOLUNTEERS

Here's how you can sign up (or update your shift if needed):

1. Click this link to see which spots are available
2. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
3. Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password. Note: Your email is not shared with anyone.

There are 4 shifts available over the sale weekend:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Shift One</th>
<th>Shift Two</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>4:30 to 7:15</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>7:30 to noon</td>
<td>11:45 to 4:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>11:30 to 4:15</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

DONATIONS
Donations can be anything garden related such as perennials, planters, garden art etc.

If you have any questions about donations, please contact Isabella Hurless-Banks at imhurless@aol.com or call 278-2067 or 205-0577.

NOTE: The Plant Sale Committee has plant markers which are to be used with all perennial donations. These are available from the Greenhouse and the Extension Office. By using these tags with a fine point permanent marker we can ensure that they hold up under the wet and humid conditions at the greenhouse.

Tags will have approximately an inch marked off at the top and this area needs to remain blank and is for use by the Plant Sale only. There will still be plenty of space for you to identify your donations:

- Plant name, color, height and light conditions are all useful information to include.
- Do NOT price your donations.
- We can also help out if you need pots for your perennial donations. Again, just let us know.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

Be sure to like and follow us on Facebook!

And print, display or share the 2019 Plant Sale Flyer for friends, family and co-workers!

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding anything in this article please email or call Isabella Hurless-Banks.

Thank you for your support!
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, July 1st</td>
<td><strong>Ecology Plus Diversity:</strong> Designing w/ Plants that Mimic Nature</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, July 1st</td>
<td><strong>Give your Garden Wings:</strong> Pollinator Best Practices</td>
<td>2:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, July 8th</td>
<td><strong>Vegetable Garden FAQ:</strong> Answers to Common Garden Questions</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, July 8th</td>
<td><strong>Vegetable Garden Pest Management</strong>*</td>
<td>2:15 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This is a re-showing from February 6th. Poor weather kept many from missing this great webcast!

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!

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

Downtown Farmers' Market

As noted in last month's Green Thumb, the Polk County Master Gardeners' Booth will be open for business at the Des Moines Downtown Farmers' Market on the third Saturday of May, June, August and September and on the fourth Saturday of July.

The specific dates are:

- May 18
- June 15
- July 27
- Aug. 17
- Sept. 21

There are still volunteer slots available for our upcoming May 18 date, where we'll feature materials on Planning Flower Beds and Vegetable Gardens.

Volunteer!

[link to SignUp.com] Then enter your email address

(You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp.com).
Look for further details on the PCMG Farmers' Market Booth as the season progresses.

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.

Farmers' Market Co-chairs:

| Matt Dore: matt.dore@drake.edu |
| Sherri Soich: sherrisoich@gmail.com |
| Randy Campbell: campbellrd@mchsi.com |

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Beaverdale Farmers' Market

4133 Urbandale Avenue

Tuesdays: 4:00 - 7:30 pm

The PCMG booth at the Beaverdale Farmer's Market is looking for volunteers! The market is located at the corner of Beaver and Urbandale Avenues in Des Moines and runs from 4:00 - 7:30 pm each Tuesday evening.

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!

- **3:30 to 5:30** (set-up & start answering questions)
- **5:30 to 7:30 / 8:00** (answer questions & put away booth)

Sign up for a volunteer spot here!

Dates for the Beaverdale Booth:

- June 4
- June 18
- July 2
- August 6

If you have questions please contact Marietta Rives: 515-778-7595.
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

May brings us a period of transition and renewal. This is a time when gardeners give gratitude for warming days and diminished chances for a heavy frost or freeze. In the spirit of gratitude we give thanks to:

- All our volunteers and those that assisted in our spring clean up and preparing our gardens for the coming season.
- The many volunteers that have stepped up and offered to assist in bed management, special projects and to those that will join us during the growing season.
- The Greenhouse team that provided interns training and all the volunteers that assisted in growing thousands of plants for the PCMG garden displays.
- The Plant Sale team and all the volunteers that worked during the annual fundraiser which provides the many PCMG projects their budgets for the season.

--Thank You from Ruth & Sandie!

Work nights will begin in May on Monday evenings. Start time 5 pm. Arrive when you can, leave when you must. If you are unable to join us on Monday evenings please contact a co-chair to discuss volunteer service options.

In June we are adding a work morning on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Our first work Saturday will be June 8th.

Mark your calendars for our Thursday evening 'How Does A Garden Grow' education series which begins in June, start time 7 pm. The line up for the month of June includes:

- June 13th - Organic Disease and Bug Control, presented by Sadie Todd
- June 20th - Raised Bed Gardening presented by Megan Will
- June 27th - Improving Water Quality and Conservation in Your Backyard presented by Julie Perreaut

We look 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</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

A Hidden Gem

Our Spring Dinner and Planning Meeting was Wednesday, March 27th and we had a wonderful turnout. We want to express our gratitude for a friend of the Discovery Garden, Eric J. Faust, who donated $1,000 to assist with the cost of our recent Garden Mapping Project which was conducted by ISU students. Thank you Eric! We want to also thank the Team Members of the Discovery Garden for all of their hard work in making our Garden a success each year.

On Saturday, April 13th, Co-Chair Dean Brand along with a few MG Volunteers and Just Add H2O were able to successfully fix and open the pond for the season. We set a new "record" this spring; at least 45 fish plus a very large bull frog survived and are back in the pond now. A big thank you to the guys from Just Add H2O for once again helping us get the pond ready for the season, it would be really difficult without you and your equipment!

Upcoming Dates:

Regular Wednesday Work Nights continue from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please note that
you are most welcome to visit the Discovery Garden any date or time which works for your Bed Team. We encourage you to continue your cleanup until it is planting time.

- **Friday, May 17th** - Plant pick-up date from the City of Des Moines Greenhouse
- **Wednesday, May 22nd** - Garden Planting Date
- **Wednesday, May 29th** - Alternative Garden Planting Date

Our first Summer *Discover Garden Educational Session* is **Wednesday, May 29th** ~ Care and Placement of Ornamental Grasses in the Home Landscape, presented by Polk County Master Gardener and Co-Chair of the Discovery Garden, Earl Hinnenkamp. The Session begins at 6:00 pm after our Wednesday Work Night at the Discovery Garden, located just south of the John Deere Agricultural Building at the Iowa State Fairgrounds.

**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

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

**Enjoy this day!**

**Co-Chairs:**
- Dean Brand  [drbrand@mediacombb.net](mailto:drbrand@mediacombb.net)  tel: 515-360-0774
- Earl Hinnekamp  [19earl53@gmail.com](mailto:19earl53@gmail.com)  tel: 515.443.0010
- 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/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/discoverygarden/)
View our website: [www.discoverygardenpcmg.org](http://www.discoverygardenpcmg.org)

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**Enabling Garden**

We had another phenomenal perennial sale on April 13th. **Many thanks to Marlene and Gary Olson for leading this initiative.** We appreciate all of our volunteers that came out to help divide plants, bring food, and provide support for sale day.

Couple of key dates to keep in mind for May:
Our next Spring Clean-up date is set for Saturday, May 4th at 1:00.
Regular work nights at the Enabling Garden start on Tuesdays any time after 4:00PM to dark (or as long as you are able), weather permitting. Please join us for fun, food and fellowship in the garden.

Enabling Garden Annuals Planting day will be on Tuesday May 14th. 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, Barry Laws, who will present "Barry's Choice." Bring a lawn chair and join us at 7:00PM on Tuesday, May 28th for what is sure to be a wild card 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

. . . 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
Paula Winslow - peaceinthegarden@aol.com
Christine Barker - ccbark1989@aol.com
Sharon Schoonoer - schoony35@aol.com

Volunteer Opportunities to Help with our New MG Training Class!

Our New Flipped Class Schedule is Fun, Hands-on Learning!

Our "classroom" is scattered around Polk and Dallas again this year!

Here's how our class will work. For each of the 17 topics the trainees will watch the pre-recorded lectures from ISU Extension on their own time as well as read the assigned chapters in their book. Then, when we get together for class, we'll experience gardening by getting our hands dirty or engaging with a lecturer who will take the lesson farther and help us understand the day to day application.

Class Nights & Some Saturdays!

- Most classes will be Monday night this year but a few will be on Saturday.
- Start times are 6:30 pm (Monday nights) or 9:00 am (Saturday mornings).
- Average class length will be 90 minutes (a few may run 2 hours).
Orientation night: Monday August 5th!
First class is Monday August 19th.
Some classes will be held at the Extension Office (but still interactive)
Each of our three gardens will also host a lesson again this year!

Examples of Class Field Trip Locations Include

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Integrated Pest Management</th>
<th>Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trees</td>
<td>Brenton Arboretum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables &amp; Herbs</td>
<td>Dogpatch Urban Garden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Want to Help with Class?

- I will need volunteers to help at the office with the "usual coordinator" tasks like taking attendance and managing treats.
- I am also looking for field-trip hosts who will take attendance, stay with the group, take notes & help continue the experience afterwards.
- Can you teach or help with a lab experience?
- Please specify your interest and whether a Monday night or a Saturday morning will work for you.

Email Ike at this special email address: polkmg@iastate.edu

____________________________________________________

Help us Plan for a Great
Polk County Master Gardeners Garden Tour
for 2020!

As you may have heard, we weren't able to find enough master gardeners willing to offer their home garden for the tour this year. The planning committee members agreed we should postpone the tour until next year, and try to get a full tour for 2020.

The date we would be looking at for next year is June 27th, 2020.

Regardless of your address*, please consider volunteering your garden for 2020!
Or, do you know of a PCMG who has an interesting or beautiful garden that you'd like to "nominate"? We'd rather you nudge them to volunteer, but if you'd like a committee member to make that call, contact Jodi Hand or Jean Samson

Use the link below to volunteer or email / call me to discuss what that would mean for you if your home is on the tour.

[Click here to volunteer your home for the 2020 Garden Tour](#)

The Committee will continue to search for additional gardens over this spring and summer and our planning efforts will focus on putting together a tour we can be proud of, filled with demonstrations and activities for children and adults!

Jodie Hand
Garden Tour co-chair

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

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

Program Committee

Thank you for a great season of learning & fellowship. Attendance was good and the weather cooperated!

Here are the attendance figures and donations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Attended</th>
<th>Donation</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>$69</td>
<td>Tivon Feeley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>Dr. Rosberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>$28</td>
<td>Jordan Scheibel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>$31</td>
<td>Matthew Bailey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you to all who donated soup and sides and a special thanks to those on the Program Committee for set up/tear down each evening!
Greenhouse

Thank you for volunteering again this year!

Follow our Facebook page for the latest updates on the Greenhouse: https://www.facebook.com/pcmvgreenhouse/timeline

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

Message from Chris Cyran

Longtime Master Gardener Chris Cyran and his wife Kim will be retiring this June to return to their home in Ft. Mohave/Bullhead City, AZ on the Colorado River.

Chris would like to pass on his thanks to the Polk County Master Gardener community for the camaraderie and opportunities to work with such hardworking volunteers, especially in his time helping with the greenhouse and Fair. He gives his regards to our community.

Thank you Chris for your volunteer service! All the best in your next chapter!

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Continuing Education from Your Home Computer
Important Reminder!
Please Return your Background Screening Form!

Background screening is required to be REPEATED every three years. All volunteers (including Lifetime members who are still volunteering) need to be "re-screened" in order to remain certified.

Please look over all sides of the materials in your envelope! A number of forms have come back incomplete, missing one of the pages, missing a signature, drivers' licence number or other required information.

Misplaced your envelop--contact Ike and she'll email you a new set.

If you went through screening in Polk County in the last 3 years, you will receive a request with the rest of your class based on the recurring cycle.

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 9:00 to 4:00
Phone: 515-957-5761
email: nancyike@iastate.edu
Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.