Sherri's View from the Garden

At the Fall Harvest Celebration last week, I had the pleasure of welcoming our newest master gardeners into the fold. We also honored longtime members who have earned service pins for their exceptional contributions. One gardener we honored, Melvin Visser, has donated at least 3000 hours of his time. I marveled at that achievement, and started wondering if I had ever spent 3000 hours doing anything worthwhile. Imagine 3000 hours of focused activity! A quick internet search revealed that a person could become a licensed marriage counselor or a captain for a regional airline after 3000 hours. One could master a new language or learn to play a musical instrument. Volunteerism, of course, is a particularly selfless way to spend time. Melvin, and others like him, inspires us to put our time to good use, and not fritter away the 24 hours we're given each day. If my predecessor Matt were still writing this column, he'd close with a quotation, so here we go:
"The chief beauty about time is that you cannot waste it in advance. The next year, the next day, the next hour are lying ready for you, as perfect, as unspoiled, as if you had never wasted or misapplied a single moment in all your life. You can turn over a new leaf every hour if you choose." ~Arnold Bennett.

If you have suggestions you'd like the steering committee to consider in the upcoming year, I'd love to hear them. Feel free to contact me at sherrisoich@gmail.com or 515-710-5665.

Sherri Soioch, Steering Committee Chair

Demonstration Garden

Our official gardening season has come to an end. It took a little tough love to pull marigolds, snapdragons, and salvia that were still in bloom, but we got the job done. Thanks to everyone who helped with the fall cleanup!

We can also report that the apple picking season has finally come to an end. (Yeah!) To the many volunteers who stepped up and reached up to help with the harvest, your efforts are much appreciated. Thanks to you, the demo garden donated over 2000 pounds of apples to area food pantries this year in addition to the bountiful donation of vegetables yielded by the raised bed and food pantry gardens. Well done everybody!
Still on the to-do list for this year: the extension of the shed patio and putting the roses to bed. Watch your in box for announcements on these two year-end projects.

*Co-Chairs, Ruth Doxon and Diane Ackerman*

**Discovery Garden**

In this month of gratefulness, we would like to thank all of the volunteers that made the Garden another success this year. Without all of your hours of planning, planting, and maintaining, the Garden would probably not flourish and no one would want to visit it. We have started on some of the renovation projects, which is exciting, and gives a brand new look to the Garden. Thanks to those of you who have helped with the labor intensive work, it is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to the interns who have completed the requirements for certification. Also kudos to the MGs that have volunteered 500 hours or more. This is a HUGE accomplishment, because some of you are still employed and give up your precious time to volunteer at the Discovery Garden. Receiving their 500 hours pins are Katharine Howsare, Jean Schustek, and Mike Treinen. 1000 hours recipients are Nancy Bodine, Cathie Law, and Cheree Tilton. 2000 hours recipients are Dean Brand, Bob Helvey and Patrick Schmitt. Dean also volunteers at the Enabling Garden and Bob is the co-chair at the Greenhouse.

November is also election time, so exercise your freedom and get out and vote. Please remember current and past members of the military on Veteran's Day, thank a vet, a person now serving, or fly the Stars and Stripes to honor them.

Enjoy the fruits of your harvest and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

*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, Cheree Tilton tiltoncm@gmail.com  tel:515.262.0488

**Enabling Garden**

We had gorgeous fall weather and a successful clean-up dates in October. Thanks for everyone who made time to come out and help! The work goes much faster and is more fun when you have the help of a group of talented gardeners and cooks, too!

The benches in the Children's Garden were installed and thus it has been nearly completed and the co-chairs would like to thank the Children's Garden Committee as well as the many
volunteers that really went the extra mile to get that project completed. Grant writing and fundraising was a huge part to our success and ability to put it all together in one season. Thank you for all of your time and expertise. It has made our garden a beautiful jewel of Altoona.

Additionally, the EG co-chairs would like to give thanks for all of our volunteers who participated in the Enabling Garden this year. Thank you for being there to plant annuals, pull weeds, water, donate goodies, fundraise, and most importantly, bring treats to work night!

These contributions are what make a volunteer organization work!

Thank you and have wonderful Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving.

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

### Iowa Master Gardener Art Show

There is still time to check out the 2015 All-Iowa Master Gardener Art Show on display in the Botanical Garden’s North Gallery through November 16. There are 64 entries from 25 artists representing Polk, Delaware, Jasper, Marion, Dallas, Story, and Ringgold counties. Congratulations to all the 2015 artists.

It's not too soon to be working on your entry for the 2016. And, mark your calendar for September 1 for the 2016 All-Iowa Master Gardener Art Show Reception at the Botanical Garden.

*Patricia Reeves, All-Iowa Master Gardener Art Show Coordinator*

### Community Event

A coalition of gardening enthusiasts, in cooperation with the Agricultural Urbanism Toolkit program, a grant project funded through the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University, will host a morning workshop Nov. 14 to explore community gardens. The workshop will explore opportunities that exist for community gardens, and provide an opportunity for gardeners to give feedback on community garden efforts and educational programs that are needed to support Iowa gardeners. This **FREE event is Nov. 14 from 8:30-11:00a.m.** at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. A panel of speakers is scheduled to address topics such as: community garden types, how to establish community gardens, garden management styles and roles, as well as successes and challenges. Breakout sessions will follow the panel with a brief discussion and survey for workshop participants at the conclusion. Participants will have the opportunity to connect with other gardeners, community organizations and resources at informational booths during the event.
Although the workshop is free, registration is required to gather program interests and count for a light breakfast. The registration deadline is Nov. 6. To register or learn more about the Public Garden Discussion, visit http://www.dmbotanicalgarden.com/events-programs/calendar-events/181-public-garden-discussion-calling-all-community-gardeners/

**Greenhouse**

We have set the dates for the 2016 Greenhouse Lab on 1/23/16, 1/27/16, and 1/30/16. We now need 10 education hours to recertify. The lab provides 2 ½ education hours. We have 96 slots spread over the three days and **MANDATORY** attendance for 44 Trainees. That leaves 52 slots to be filled by PCMG and then Trainees from Warren-Madison-Dallas counties.

If you want to attend one of the labs send an email to cfridl@aol.com prioritizing your date availability. (#1-01/23/16; #2-01/30/16; #3-01/27/16) Don't omit a date. If you are unavailable any of those dates indicate that in your email. The cutoff date to apply is 12-15-2015.

**DO NOT JUST SHOW UP. YOU WILL NOT HAVE A SPOT AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE.**

Greenhouse Volunteers are needed for the next growing season. We need volunteers to water on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in February, March, April and May (through May 14th). In February we need two people each day, in March we need three and in April and May we need four. The watering periods will be scheduled so someone with a key can give access to all the volunteers at the same time. The time may differ for each day depending on the availability of the person with the key. If you're interested in volunteering please send an email to Jean Schustek (jean.schustek@gmail.com) with the day(s) and month(s) you want to volunteer.

**Congratulations**

Our Harvest Celebration was enjoyed by all on 10-22-15.
Several folks were recognized but unable to attend.  
**September 2014** class graduates - Linda Anderson, Dana Ball, Jacqui Brewer, Robin Fulton, Dodie Harger, Ryan Lønsing, Sara Schryver, Sonia Sledge and Jane Wang.  
**January 2014** class graduates - Jennifer Joos, Dawn Kasotia, an JoAnn Weaver. 
**500 Hours pins** - Paul Bratton, Katherine Howsare, Jan Jenkins, Rita Minard, Carol Nading, Gary Olson, Marlene Olson, and Jean Schustek 
**100 Hours pins** - Theresa Garrison, Cathie Law, Margaret Mackie, Tom Mackie, and Cheree Tilton 
**2000 Hour pins** - Leanna Culver, Melissa Holst, Mary Howell-Williams and Mark White.  

**Here are some photos of the folks we gathered to honor.**  
Thanks to Dean Brand for taking the photos.
September 2014 Class Graduates
Left to right: Alesia Trask, Sarah Thorn, Lynn Ethington, Karen McGregor, Sue Cornick, Valerie Just, David Fenton, Sharon Cecil, Kim Sova, Cheryl Fridl, Wayne Hohl, Christine Graham, Allie Griffiths, Jessica Fish

January 2014 class Graduates
Dawn Cullison, Cathy Soutter, Katy Heggen

500 Hours pins
Rita Perea, Shan Schoonover, Andrea Boughton, Diane Ackerman, Janis Henderickson, Peggy Goetzke, Diane Hills, Mike Treinen
1000 Hours pin
Nancy Bodine

2000 Hours pin
Bob Helvey, Jerry Ferrell, Patrick Schmitt, Sandie Hamilton, Dean Brand
(Did you notice, they are all project co-chairs?)

Mel Visser surpassed 3000 hours
but was recovering from surgery so Carol Visser accepted his pin.

**New Hours Reporting System**

ISU has made major changes in the Hours reporting system but the web address is the same.
[http://mastergardenerhours.hort.iastate.edu/](http://mastergardenerhours.hort.iastate.edu/)
You'll need to click on "Sign In to VRS" in the gray box on the left. Your Username (email) and password will be the same as the previous system. There is a Quick Tour Video on the homepage to explain some of the changes.

Please note: Continuing Education Requirement is listed under Category field. Hours entered here should only be learning time. Travel for Education is one of the options under Polk Local Projects and needs to be a separate entry from class time.

If you choose "Other" under Category, the field below it (Local Project or Sub-Category) will have a pull down menu with a list of the Polk County projects for you to choose from. So you no longer have to type out the project name.

Just like the old system, the Description field is the place for you to make notes about what you did for that project for that day.

Under the MG Profile tab, there are 4 tabs so you can see and/or change your personal information.

**Education Opportunities**

**Fall Horticulture Conference**
November 7, 2015
12:15 to 6:15

Five hours of education available
Topics: Low Maintenance Landscape, Hobby Greenhouses, Preparing State Fair Exhibits, Beekeeping, Working with Volunteers in a Public Garden.


Registration Deadline is 10-29-2015 but there may be room for walk-ins.

~~~ The Greater Des Moines Garden Club has an educational opportunity that Master Gardeners may be interested in attending. The public is always invited to attend our meetings.

Parking available in the ramp on the east side of the building.
November 19, 1:00 pm in the Greenwood and Burling Rooms of the Plymouth Congregational Church, 42nd and Ingersoll Ave.

Janna Boyd, a certified flower show judge will present a program on Floral Design.

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Training classes

The Fall MG Training series has begun.
Classes are held each Tuesday evening, starting at 6:15 at the Polk County Extension Office in Altoona. Each provides 3 hours of MG education.
The list of topics and speakers is available here.

Certified MGs are welcome to audit these classes.
We do ask that you bring your own snacks or beverages.

Remember that trainees are hearing this information for the first time.
Please refrain from disruptive behavior such as visiting with your neighbor, using your cell to surf the web or take calls, catching up on your garden magazine reading, and leaving early when the Q & A portion starts.

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The Landscape Design School, an educational unit of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, is holding a refresher program for FGCI Landscape Design Consultants on Saturday, November 21, at the Iowa Arboretum. The program will include presentations on: using native trees and shrubs; prairie plants; basics of landscape graphics; sustainable landscape design; special trees of the Iowa Arboretum; water-wise landscaping (webinar). This program counts as eight hours toward the Master Gardener continuing education.

Here is the schedule/registration form with more specifics. I may be contacted by:
email  pmmoody@mchsi.com, phone  515-576-6021, or mail at David Moody, Iowa Chairman NGC Landscape Design Schools, 2022 Westwood Acres Drive, Fort Dodge, IA 50501-8512

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Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.