

# The Green Thumb

*Monthly Newsletter for Polk County Master Gardeners*

*& Master Gardener Interns*

**Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Polk County**

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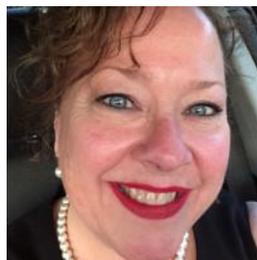


## **Hello All and Happy Fall -**

I will continue with Bob Helvey's tradition of a spotlight interview with Master Gardeners throughout our organization. In the coming months if you have recommendations on individuals that you think I should interview, please email me at [ccbark1989@aol.com](mailto:ccbark1989@aol.com).

This month, I am pleased to introduce the incoming Chair-Elect, Marietta Rives. When Marietta and I connected, she let me know that she is thrilled to be your incoming chair-elect. Her enthusiasm and positivity is contagious!

## **Profile of a PCMG : Marietta Rives**



Christine: How or when did you become interested in Gardening? And, what led you to the MG program?

*Marietta: When I was young, my mother assigned the dreaded task of picking beans, usually in the hottest part of the summer. But in general, I wasn't particularly enamored with gardening in my younger years. When I got a little older, I worked at a florist shop, where I learned floral design. To this day, I can design a beautiful funeral spray! Then, I decided to go back to school as a non-traditional student in my 30s. It was my first class back in college, botany that really hooked me. Fast forward 25-years, to when a friend and neighbor invited me to come along and take the MG class in 2017. I completed my MG training in 2017.*

Christine: Flowers or Vegetables? (Or, none of the above?)

*Marietta:Vegetables, mostly.*

Christine: When in the garden, what brings a smile to your face?

*Marietta: That God can do all of this... it is like magic!*

Christine: What do you want MG and others to take away from the Master Gardener Program?

*Marietta: It doesn't matter your age, color of skin, or abilities, everyone can learn something new.*

**Christine Barker**  
**Steering Committee Chair**  
[ccbark1989@aol.com](mailto:ccbark1989@aol.com)

Looking for more information on the Steering Committee? [View our guidelines here.](#)

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## Green Thumb - Sneak Peek

Check here for a quick list of volunteer and continuing education opportunities mentioned in this month's Green Thumb.  
Check out more details in the appropriate news article.

### Volunteer Opportunities

- Many opportunities with the 2020 Garden Tour
- Demo Garden - late season tasks
- Discovery Garden - communications opportunities

### Continuing Education

- Online webcast opportunities (see bottom of newsletter)
- Webcasts at the Extension Office:
  - Dec. 3rd at 2pm - Compost 101 and Growing Roses

- Nominating Committee co-chair positions

- Dec. 11th at 2pm - Local Bees and Organic Vegetables

2020 Program Committee dates:

- Jan 9: Tivon Feeley: topic TBD 2.5 hours education
- Feb 13 : Dr. Thomas Rosberg: topic TBD, 2.5 hours education
- March 12: Aaron Steil: Gardening Under Lights & information on Reimen Gardens, 2.5 hours education
- April 2: 1 hour of education by Marcia Leeper, topic TBD

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## Program Committee



Thank you to all for a successful Harvest Celebration. This was a change from the past in that we did not honor hours earned. That will occur in April.

Looking ahead are opportunities to earn 8.5 education hours and enjoy the fellowship of Master Gardeners.

- Thursday, Jan 9: Tivon Feeley: topic to be determined, 2.5 hours education
- Thursday, Feb 13 : Dr. Thomas Rosberg: topic to be determined, 2.5 hours education
- Thursday, March 12: Aaron Steil: Gardening Under Lights & information on Reimen Gardens, 2.5 hours education
- Thursday, April 2: Spring Celebration: Awards and one hour of education by Marcia Leeper, topic to be determined.

Mark your calendars--sign up information to follow in the Green Thumb. If you have any ideas for topics for the speakers, feel free to email Mary at [poultermk76@gmail.com](mailto:poultermk76@gmail.com)

Program Committee Chair: Mary Poulter	<a href="mailto:poultermk76@gmail.com">poultermk76@gmail.com</a>
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**Demonstration Garden**



A heartfelt THANK YOU to all our volunteers this past season. Your time, energy, and ideas are greatly appreciated. It was a very productive year with a shed addition, patio extension, and very successful fall fundraiser (name a few).

The vegetable gardens were quite productive resulting in over 900 lbs of donations to the Food Pantry. After taking a break from producing this last year the apple orchards had an exceptional year both in terms of production and quality of apples. Over 1600 lbs of fruit has been donated to the food pantry as of writing this article. This includes 78 lbs of Concord grapes and Heritage Red raspberries. Production for each of those was also some of the highest we have experienced.

The garden has been cleaned up and nearly put to bed for its winter slumber. After months of disarray, fencing and posts are in the new shed addition, pallets of landscape stones neatly stacked and the area behind the raised vegetable garden visible once again. Our late season fall tasks yet to be completed include apple harvest, washing the curb compost bins before winter storage, and post a wintry freeze the roses will be addressed using collars and moved leaves. The last task is very weather dependent so communications will occur shortly before the designated day and time.

**Please take time to enjoy the beauty of fall and have a wonderfully Happy Thanksgiving.**

Visit our [website](#) and like us on [Facebook](#).

**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>

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**Discovery Garden**  
A Hidden Gem



Oct. 16th work night. Photo by Dean Brand

As the season shifts, there is a promised change of feelings of hope and gratitude. During the month of November, we pause to reflect on our gratitude for our Veterans, our Life, our Families, our Friends, those who have gone before us; and, for all those who have shared their talents with our Discovery Garden. It takes many hands to complete the volunteer work at the Discovery Garden and for that we are most grateful. Thank you!

As we continue to reflect, here are some of our 2019 Accomplishments at the Discovery Garden.

- The Rose Bed renovation was completed with 32 new roses. The roses were donated by Baileys except for 5 varieties which were out of stock.
- We have 10 new DG Team Members who joined our team in 2019 with another 3 joining the Discovery Garden in 2020.
- The Tunnel was upgraded and is narrower and straighter with new flooring.
- New permanent labeling was completed for the Rose Bed and Grass Bed with the new larger plant standards by the DG Communications Team.
- The Crab tree, the Serviceberry and the Katsura trees were trimmed.
- A new pump was replaced in the Pond.

Best to all of you and a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Thursday, August 13 through Sunday, August 23, 2020 - 2020 Iowa State Fair**

***Co-Chair contact information:***

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

Joyce Carle: [carlejec@mchsi.com](mailto:carlejec@mchsi.com) 515-229-6769

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

Patrick Schmitt [schmittpatrickj@gmail.com](mailto:schmittpatrickj@gmail.com) tel:515.657.1937

**[View our website](#) and [join our Facebook group](#).**

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## Enabling Garden

It was a cool and windy couple of fall clean-up days, but that is to be expected in October. Thanks to all of the volunteers that came out to assist. We were able to wrap up our big fall tasks and put the garden to 'bed' for the winter.

As we turn head into fall, three of our Co-Chairs have decided to pass the trowel off. Sandie Hamilton, Paula Winslow and Sharon Schoonover will be transitioning out of their co-chair positions. All three will continue to be an integral part of the garden, volunteering and participating in social aspects. Thank you for the significant contributions each of you have made. The Enabling Garden was built and shaped with your input, sage advice and oversight. There are not enough words to thank you for everything that you have done for the Enabling Garden.

I am pleased to announce that we have three new co-chairs that join me, assuming co-chair duties.

- Judy Goshorn, Class of 2006
- Rosie Surber, Class of 2009
- Paul Satre, Class of 2018.

Thank you for your time and the willingness to accept a new challenge.

All of the EG co-chairs would like to give thanks for our volunteers who participated in the Enabling Garden this year. Thank you for your creativity and being there to fund raise, plant annuals, pull weeds, water, and most importantly, bring a meal to work night. Your time and expertise are appreciated!

**Happy Veteran's Day and have a Beautiful Thanksgiving.  
Thank you,**

**Connect with us on our [website](#) or keep up to date on our [Facebook Group](#)**

**Enabling Garden Co-Chairs:**  
**Sandie Hamilton - [bhamil7132@aol.com](mailto:bhamil7132@aol.com)**  
**Christine Barker - [cbbark1989@aol.com](mailto:cbbark1989@aol.com)**  
**Paula Winslow**  
**Sharon Schoonover**

**Paul Satre**  
**Rosie Surber**  
**Judy Goshorn**

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# Polk County Master Gardeners Garden Tour

June 20, 2020 9am-4pm

featuring gardens in Urbandale and Clive

**We need volunteers!**

Do you need volunteer hours but aren't able to work on "work nights" for the different gardens? We need you to help with the garden tour planning committee and we have lots of opportunities to lead as well! Here are some of the exciting volunteer opportunities we have available:

- Marketing subcommittee Chair
  - Coordinates subcommittee on marketing of the tour. Duties will include, but not limited to: recruiting advertisements for brochure, designing brochure, flyers or other materials for promotion purposes and arranges for community promotion on radio, TV and print media, with the help of subcommittee members.
- Activities subcommittee Chair
  - Coordinates subcommittee for planning activities for children and adults as well as any demonstrations, exhibits or other tour enhancements. Coordinates with extension office to work on education opportunities and requirements for PCMG education hours.
- Social Media / Website Manager
  - Maintains / updates website for tour, Facebook and Instagram for purposes of marketing the tour.
- Ticket Sales Coordinator
  - Set up / monitor online ticket sales, distribute ticket packets and arrange with local retailers for local ticket sales. Collects money from retailers / online ticket seller and deposits money to extension office.
- Garden Sponsor
  - Serve as main point of contact for host garden. Initiate contact with host garden and help homeowner prepare for the tour. Coordinate any needed volunteers for the host garden for planting / weeding etc. Will be at host garden on tour day to aid in set up / clean up and direct volunteers at beginning of shift. Responsible for placement and removal of signage on day of tour. Basically, be a "right hand man" for the host garden!
- Garden Prep Volunteer
  - Aid host gardens in preparing for the tour beginning in Spring until tour day. Duties to include but not limited to: planting, weeding, watering and other garden maintenance as needed by host garden.
- Day of Tour Volunteer
  - Rotating duties in 2 shifts (morning and afternoon). Check tickets / wristbands, sell tickets, greet guests and answer questions; maintain any activities or exhibits at host garden site. Help with setup and clean up.

**We are also looking for host gardens in Urbandale and Clive!** If you are interested in having your garden featured please contact Jodie via email. If you work on any community garden projects we would also be interested in featuring those projects you work on as well!

- Host Garden
  - Active PCMG or intern residing in Polk County, in target area for the year's tour or a community garden project a PCMG member participates

in. Well cared for gardens and landscapes featuring, but not limited to; vegetable gardens, flowers, water features, landscaped yards, or small space and container gardens. Open gardens to public for tour day. Work with Garden Sponsor to coordinate needed volunteers to prepare garden for tour.

Please contact Jodie Hand if you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities. **Our next meeting is Nov. 14th at 6:00pm at the Johnston Public Library.** We are looking for committee members to help us plan activities and education opportunities for master gardeners for the tour as well as help with marketing and selling advertising in our brochure. Jodie is also still looking for a vice-chair. This is a great opportunity to help lead and learn the ropes of planning the tour and the potential to take over as chair after a couple years!

**Jodie Hand**  
**Garden Tour Chair**

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

 <p>extraordinary <b>gardens</b> by ordinary people</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Garden Tour Co-Chairs:</b></p> <p>Jodie Hand: <a href="mailto:jodiemariehand@gmail.com">jodiemariehand@gmail.com</a></p>
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## Nominating Committee

We now have a formal process to nominate and elect officers and two at-large positions for the Steering Committee. [That document can be viewed here.](#)

This was the first year the process was used, and it was used to great success. We elected folks for all the elected positions to the Steering Committee. Thank you to Rosie Surber, Paul Satre, and Kalsa Parker Browning for their efforts in making the process work. My hat's off to them.

As with many successes like theirs, Rosie and Paul have accepted new positions as Co-Chairs at the Enabling Garden. I don't need to wish them luck in their new position because I know they will be successful. The Enabling Garden is getting two valuable folks.

That leaves the Nomination and Election Committee with a hole in our management team. We only have one chair, me, and to be successful we need more. So, **I'm reaching out via this Green Thumb asking for volunteers to join me as a Co-Chair of this committee.** The link to the web site will give you information about the committee's activities. If you have questions or want to volunteer, you can reach me at [bob@tsmcgrp.com](mailto:bob@tsmcgrp.com) or 804-357-7956. Thank you in advance for considering this opportunity.

Nominating Committee Chair	
Bob Helvey	<a href="mailto:Bob@tsmcgrp.com">Bob@tsmcgrp.com</a>



## Continuing Education from Your Home Computer

### [Iowa Master Gardener YouTube Channel](#)

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### [Recorded Webcasts from Oregon State University Extension \(OSU\)](#)

[Asian Jumping Worms: A Threat of Oregon Landscapes](#)  
(this invasive species is also impacting Iowa)

[Are Viruses Lurking in Your Backyard Fruit Trees?](#)

[What can a Leaf Bud tell us about Environmental Change?](#)

Master Garden Advanced Education Series are 1 hour each.

### [Webinars through eXtension.org](#)

Find educational videos from other Extension Services on [e-Gro.org](#)

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## Continuing Education at the Extension Office

Don't have a reliable internet connection at home? The Extension office will be showing Master Gardener Webcasts for those still in need of continuing education (or for folks who just want to learn!)

**Tuesday, Dec. 3rd at 2pm** - Compost 101 and Growing Roses

Each date counts for 1 hour and 45 minutes of continuing education.

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**Make sure to record your volunteer and  
continuing education hours!**

If you have unrecorded hours from this year - please start recording! Hours are due by Dec. 31st, 2019 - but recording them prior to this date is appreciated.

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**Kalsa Parker Browning**

**Natural Resources Program Coordinator**

**(Pronounced: Kel-sa)**

**Email: [kparker@iastate.edu](mailto:kparker@iastate.edu)**

**Phone: 515-957-5768**

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