Greetings Gardeners!

Greeting Gardeners! By the time you read this, our initial Steering Committee elections will be closed. Thank you to all who voted, to Kalsa for coordinating the event, and Rosie Surber and Paul Satre who managed the entire process. Results will be announced, and our new Steering Committee introduced at Harvest Celebration on October 24.

We have two co-chair positions to fill. Rosie Surber and Paul Satre will be joining the Enabling Garden as new co-chairs. They are very familiar with that garden and will do a fantastic job. With that move, we have an opening for two co-chairs on the Nominating and Elections Committee. Go to our [web site for a description](#) of that committee. If you're interested reach out to me at bob@tsmcgrp.com or 804-357-7956.

Prior Green Thumb articles have mentioned our lack of a greenhouse for 2020. In addition to education opportunities and growing plants for gardens, we will need to adjust the Plant Sale operations which could reduce our revenue. **So, the Steering Committee is looking for alternative sources of revenue and are asking for your help. Reach out to me about revenue generating ideas you have. Remember, your idea may not be the solution but could be a catalyst for someone else.**

At the last Steering Committee meeting, we talked about Symposiums as a fund-raising vehicle. We’d like your feedback on any Symposiums you have attended. Everything about that Symposium you can report regarding when, where, length, agenda, cost, value to you, and any other valuable information you have about the Symposium. Send that information to me.
October is my last Green Thumb as Chair of the Steering Committee. I have enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you for your patience with me and your feedback about issues. At the Harvest Celebration, the Silver Trowel will be passed to Christine Barker. You are in good hands. For those who don't know Christine, she is this month's Spotlight Volunteer.

Profile of a PCMG : Christine Barker

Christine is a late bloomer. She never was into gardening growing up, but when she and her husband moved into a house in Altoona, she began "dabbling" in plants. It wasn't much until 2000.

One day in 2000, she was biking past what is now the Enabling Garden. It was a bare plot of land, but people were working on that plot. Christine stopped and talked to someone about what they were doing. Her interest was piqued about gardening. She was unable to take the class until 2005. Her goal was to learn what to do at her house and volunteer enough to stay certified.

Fast forward to 2019. She purchased peony bushes from Kmart that continue to flourish. Also, in her garden are a multitude of flowers, a vegetable bed, prairie area and three composting systems. Behind her house, in Ankeny, is a walking path along which she has planted over 350 Daffodil bulbs. Christine's husband has a degree in Turfgrass Management, and they have experimented with specimen trees. Some worked and some didn't.

Christine is a Co-chair of the Enabling Garden and Chair-Elect on the Steering Committee. She reached her goal to learn what to do at her house and volunteer enough to stay certified.

What she likes most about the Master Gardeners is the chance to get out and do something different, plus talking and socializing with folks about gardening.

Bob Helvey
Steering Committee Chair
Bob@tsmcgrp.com

Green Thumb - Sneak Peak

Check here for a quick list of volunteer and continuing education opportunities mentioned in this month's Green Thumb.
### Volunteer Opportunities

- Demo Garden - Fall clean up: Sat. Oct. 12th
- Demo shed construction (contact for opportunities)
- Demo Roses - put to bed (Date TBD)
- Demo plant catalog on website (contact for opportunities)
- Demo Monday worknights until mid-late Oct. (as long as there are apples to harvest)
- Discovery - Wednesday work nights through frost
- Discovery - fall dinner and planning meeting: Oct. 16th
- Enabling - Tuesday work nights through Oct. 15th
- Enabling - Saturday work days on Oct. 12th and 19th
- Many opportunities with the 2020 Garden Tour
- DMPS mentoring opportunity

### Continuing Education

- October 24th Harvest Celebration - presentation by Water Works Park - 1 hour
- Online webcast opportunities (see bottom of newsletter)

---

**Farmers' Markets!**

**Downtown Farmers' Market**

The Polk County Master Gardeners' final appearance of the season at the Downtown Farmers' Market was Saturday, Sept. 21. We saw about 150 visitors over the course of the morning. We showcased one of our feature topics--Ornamental Grasses--with cut and labeled samples from the Discovery Garden, as well as with large swaths of Indian Grass from Randy Campbell's prairie garden. We showed samples of our other feature topic--Fall Bulbs--and handed out instructions for planting. We also gave away lots of Zinnia seedheads. We provided relevant ISU handouts on all these topics and answered lots of questions on a variety of other gardening matters.

Thanks to all the Master Gardeners who volunteered to work at the Farmers' Market this season--you were great! And to all Master Gardeners, please be thinking of gardening topics you'd like to see us feature at the Farmers' Market next year. We'd love to feature any of you as an expert if you're willing to explain your gardening passion to our visitors!
Farmers' Market

Co-chairs:

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

Beaverdale Farmers' Market

A big thanks to the volunteers who helped with the Beaverdale Farmers' Market this year!

Thank you!

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

Demonstration Garden
Thank you to everyone that participated in the Demonstration Garden's fall fundraiser whether it be advertising, donations, pricing, sales, set up, purchasing, etc. It was very successful and gave us some needed addition to our Capital Improvement fund. Job well done!

While gardening activities such as weeding and watering generally slow in October, harvest is still in full swing. We are particularly busy during late September and the first half of October. As of September 23rd the Urbandale Food Pantry was recipient of over 750 lbs of vegetables, more than 50 lbs of grapes, 625 lbs of apples and over 7 lbs of raspberries (considering their size and weight, that is one heck of a lot of raspberries).

Fall clean up is scheduled for Saturday, October 12th. Start time 9am, arrive when you can. When all goes well we usually wrap up by noon. Work will take place even if mist is in the air. In the event of severe thunderstorms we will do some clean up on Monday evening the 14th and then wrap it up the following Saturday if necessary.

The shed addition project continues. By the time you read this the final inspection of the structure should be completed. Painting has started and soon we should start on the addition of ornamentation to match the original structure. Outstanding tasks include the installation of guttering, planting shrubbery on the east side, installing hooks and construct shelving for the interior and work on the expansion of the patio. There is still much to be completed. If you need hours or simply like working in small groups, we welcome your assistance. Provide your email contact information and we will add you to our construction email group notifying you of dates and times.

One of our last outdoor activities for the season is putting roses to bed. Those dates are not selected in advance as the weather dictates when it transpires. Watch for email communications on the topic.

There has been some work on development of a plant catalog for our web site this past year. If you are interested in assisting in that project, please let us know. Stephanie Harrington is overseeing the initiative. Goal is to catalog most of our perennials, ornamental grasses, natives, roses and conifers and eventually adding in trees and deciduous shrubs.

Thank you to all our volunteers this year. May we continue to see you in the garden.

Visit our website and Like our Current Facebook page:
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>

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Discovery Garden**

A Hidden Gem

It says fall on our calendars; however, the weather still thinks we are in summer! Speaking of fall...our Fall Dinner and Planning Meeting is **Wednesday, October 23rd at 6:00 pm** at the Scarlet Grill, Grandview Country Club Clubhouse, 2400 E. 29th Street in Des Moines. Pizza, onion rings, salad and cookies will be served and the price is approximately $15 - payable the evening of the event. The Dinner portion of the evening will begin at 6:00 pm and the Meeting portion of the evening will begin at 6:30 pm. If you would rather just come to the Meeting - you are most welcome to do so. It is important you reserve ahead of time and respect the reservation process. Please reserve at discoverygardenpcmg@gmail.com and place Fall Meeting in the subject line or call Jean Roe @ 515-279-8706 by **Wednesday, October 16th**. Please distinguish in your response if you are coming to the **Dinner and Meeting** or just the **Meeting**. Be sure to log your MG volunteer hours for your attendance at the Meeting portion of the evening and your travel to and from this Meeting, as well. All are welcome to join us - see what's happening at the Discovery Garden for 2020 and join our Team!

The Plant List from the Isle of Green will be sent to our Bed Head Teams very soon so watch your email for this important information.

MG Bed Teams: garden beds need to be maintained until the first frost. You are invited to begin your clean-up processes any time in your garden beds by removing any weeds, dead or dying plant materials, etc. Remember to place your refuse in the container on the east side of the Garden. If anyone is interested in earning some MG volunteer hours, please join us at our Wednesday Work Nights because there is always plenty of work to be completed. Thank you.

**Upcoming Dates:**

**Wednesday Work Nights continue through the first frost.**  
Wednesday Work Nights are from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. However, please know Bed Team Members are able to work any time which is convenient for their Team.

**Tuesday, October 15th** - the irrigation system (water) will be turned off at the Discovery Garden.

**Wednesday, October 23rd** - Fall Dinner and Planning Meeting at the Scarlet Grill at Grandview Country Club Clubhouse, 6:00 pm Dinner and 6:30 pm Meeting.

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

Our evening work nights are starting to get shorter and shorter, so we will be wrapping up Tuesday work nights on Tuesday, October 15th.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 12th and October 19th at 1:00 PM for clean-up of the annuals and to complete other tasks around the garden. This is a great opportunity to pick up several volunteer hours in before the end of the 2019 season!

The EG co-chairs would like to thank all of the volunteers for their time and gifted contributions to the garden. The Enabling Garden is only made possible due to our faithful volunteers and friends of the garden.

Many Thanks!

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 - ccbbark1989@aol.com

---

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.*

---

Program Committee

Harvest Celebration Potluck

You are invited to the Thursday, October 24 Harvest Celebration at the extension office.
Come celebrate the harvest and earn an hour of education from Jessica Barnett,
Supervisor of Property Management - Des Moines Water Works, and Sam Carrell, Executive Director - Des Moines Water Works Park foundation. The topic will be Water Works Park...Past, Present and Future.

Meet our honorary Master Gardeners, learn about the 2020 Master Conservation Program, and enjoy reports from our gardens and activities.

It's a pot luck, with pulled pork sandwiches being provided. The meal starts at 6:00 p.m., with the program starting at 6:45 p.m. Please plan to arrive by 5:45 so we can start eating by 6:00 p.m.

Sign up here!

Mark Your Calendars!
Earn 2.5 education hours on these dates:

- Thursday, January 9: Tivon Feeley
- Thursday, February 13: Dr. Thomas Rosburg
- Thursday, March 12: Aaron Steil

In addition, earn an hour of education with speaker Marcia Leeper on Thursday, April 2 during a spring celebration—we will honor gardeners who have achieved milestone hours and kick off the season.

Program Committee Chair: Mary Poulter
poultermk76@gmail.com

---------------------------------

Continuing Education from Your Home Computer

Iowa Master Gardener YouTube Channel

*****

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.
Mentoring Opportunity for Master Gardener Volunteers

The Introductory Horticulture Program at DMPS Central Campus has an opportunity for Master Gardeners to mentor high school youth (grades 11 and 12) in the care and propagation of plants grown in their greenhouse. Volunteers can make a difference in the lives of youth by providing 1:1 attention and mentorship to students interested in horticulture.

Volunteer opportunities are available in the AM timeframe (9am-noon) Mondays through Fridays, but are flexible within this timeframe (weekly, monthly, whenever you can, etc.). The class is located at the Central Campus Greenhouse and Nursery - 201 SW County Line Road (next to McCombs Middle School).

If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please fill out this survey. If interest is strong, we will schedule a presentation from Craig Nelson - DMPS staff member and teacher for this course, to give potential volunteers more information. Please note: providing your name as interested is not a commitment to volunteer - we are just gauging interest for this presentation.

Please note: this is a volunteer opportunity to mentor youth in the care of plants, not as labor/maintenance for greenhouse plants.

Thank you!

Electronic Directory Survey

We are starting an electronic version of our Polk County Master Gardener Directory!
This directory will feature similar contact information available in our paper directory, as well as will feature the interests of our volunteers. This will be a resource not only to find contact information, but to reach out to our network and find people with a specific area of expertise or interest area (especially valuable to engage with our new folks coming into the program!).

This directory will be available only to active Polk County Master Gardeners, and will be housed in the ISU version of Box.com - so your information will not be accessible to people outside of PCMGs.

Keep a lookout for another survey email coming to your inbox. Thank you in advance for helping us to create this resource!

Reinstating Master Gardeners who have been inactive:

Do you know someone who was a Master Gardener, but life happened and they have been inactive for a period of time?

Former Master Gardeners can return to the program by completing a few additional requirements in the year they reinstate:

If they have been out of the program for two years or fewer they may return by:

- Completing a minimum of 24 hour of service and 12 hours of continuing education.

If they have been out of the program for longer than two years they must:

- Complete at least 24 hours of service and 12 hours of continuing education
- Pass a background check
- Complete the Master Gardener Training post-test with at least 70%
- Depending on length inactive, this person may be asked to audit the incoming MG Training or complete additional continuing education

There are also options for people who have been active in another county or state to transfer into the Polk County Master Gardener Program.

If you have a friend, co-worker, acquaintance, etc. who is interested in returning to the program, they can start this process by contacting Kalsa (kparker@iastate.edu or 515-957-5768).

And - if you know someone who is inactive - please reach out! They may just be waiting for someone to ask. You can help us grow our PCMG network.
Jack in the Pulpit Seeds Available

We have been contacted by a community member giving away free Jack in the Pulpit seeds. If interested, please reach out to John Gersib directly at jgersib@hotmail.com.

**************************************************
Kalsa Parker Browning --
Natural Resources Program Coordinator
(Pronounced: Kel-sa)

Email: kparker@iastate.edu
Phone: 515-957-5768