Greetings Gardeners!

Keep an eye on your Inbox this month so you can participate in our inaugural election! You will receive an email with a link to a page where you can cast your vote for the Chair Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and two at-large positions: Over Five-Year Master Gardener, and Most Recent Class Master Gardener. Results will be revealed at this year’s Harvest Celebration next month. Also, I will be turning the Silver Trowel over to Christine Barker who will become Steering Committee Chair for the next year.

Please note - the link to the online elections is only valid one time per email. If you share an email with another Master Gardener, please contact Kalsa for an alternative voting method.

It looks like we will not have a greenhouse for the 2020 growing season. At the last Steering Committee meeting, I suggested all the projects prepare for that situation and plan to function without one.

On the bright side, we are exploring a partnership with Polk County Conservation (PCC) to design, finance (through donations and grants), build, and operate a brand-new greenhouse at Chichaqua Bottoms Park. PCC is building some offices and warehouse facilities right now at the park and has been thinking about building a greenhouse there for a few years. They were just waiting for a partner who new more about greenhouses then they did, and we connected with them. Kent Freise, Kalsa Parker Browning and I have had several meetings with PCC and will continue pursuing this potential
Green Thumb September 2019

Profile of a PCMG : Dick Chavannes

Dick grew up in an area of Des Moines where almost everyone had a vegetable garden. An old retired man named Sam took Dick under his wing and taught him about vegetable gardening. He was hooked.

At his current residence, he has a 20’ x 25’ garden dedicated to vegetables. He mainly has tomatoes, sweet corn, green beans, peas, onions, peppers and pumpkins. The recent storms blew 50 pounds of corn over, but he was able to stand it upright after the storms. Dick says his pumpkins are a little soft in the middle and the rabbits have eaten all his green beans and peas. He hasn't harvested one bean or pea pod. Blames it on a bumper crop of rabbits. All the other vegetables are doing fine.

For a while he had some peach trees. He came home one night to find the neighborhood kids pulling peaches off the trees and having a peach fight. That convinced him to stop growing peaches.

On the very first Earth Day in 1970, he ordered 1,000 bare root trees at 45 cents each and gave one to every person who visited his office in Altoona. He continued that for four years and planted some off them at banks, offices, and municipal buildings in Altoona. Many of them are still alive and doing well.

A co-worker of his, Mary Jean Cochran, told him how much she enjoyed being a Master Gardener and convinced him to join. Dick was in the 2017 class. Now he is our Assistant Treasurer, works in the Demo Garden and at the greenhouse. What he likes most about the program are the people and the learning opportunities.

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

Farmers' Markets!

Downtown Farmers' Market

Our fourth appearance of the season at the Downtown Farmers' Market was Saturday, August 17. We saw over 200 visitors over the course of the morning. Our
feature topics included *Saving Seeds from Your Garden* and *Canning Fruits and Vegetables*. We demonstrated the *Saving Seeds* topic with live demonstrations using Coneflower, Daisy, Marigold and Zinnia seedheads. We also provided relevant ISU handouts and answered lots of questions on a variety of other gardening matters.

At present, our volunteer spots are completely filled for our last Downtown Farmers' Market appearance date (**September 21**), but please [check our volunteer page on Signup.com](https://ui.constantcontact.com/rnavmap/emcf/email/view?flow=view&camefrom=view&campaign=babed53a-6a1a-406c-ae7d-5c4c81eb6598) as September 21 approaches, as volunteers sometimes change their plans.

We're always happy to take seed donations for the Market giveaway, so please let us know if you have any you'd like to share. And if you have any suggestions for gardening topics we should feature at upcoming Farmers' Market appearances, please let us know. We'd love to feature any of you as an expert if you're willing to explain your gardening passion to our visitors!

*Thanks!*

*P.S. reminder:* 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.

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### Farmers' Market Co-chairs:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Matt Dore: <a href="mailto:matt.dore@drake.edu">matt.dore@drake.edu</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>Sherri Soich</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sherrisoich@gmail.com">sherrisoich@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Randy Campbell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:campbellrd@mchsi.com">campbellrd@mchsi.com</a></td>
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**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

School is back in session which means the official end of summer is a month away. This is the season of late summer vegetables with an abundance of tomatoes, squash, green beans, cucumbers and more. The Food Pantry and Raised Vegetable gardens have been busy harvesting produce and making weekly deliveries.

Apple harvest has begun in earnest. The garden contains a variety of trees and harvest will continue as they ripen through late October. The two trees which ripen in August have resulted in 150 lbs delivered as of this writing. Join us on Monday evenings or visit the garden post heavy rain and wind storms to pick up fallen produce. When caught quickly more than half the fallen produce may be donated (post washing). Severely damaged or rotted apples may be placed in a brown curb compost bin (do not fill more than 1/3 as it will get too heavy).

**Sunday, September 8th is our Fall Fundraiser.** Plant donations and gently used garden items may be delivered on Saturday, Sept 7th from 9am to 12 noon. Please mark pots with plant name, variety (if known), color (if applicable), height and sun shade requirements. **Volunteers for both Saturday and Sunday are still needed.** [Sign up via this link.](#)

Shed construction continues. Roofing was recently completed and next up is siding. If you would like to join in on this project or the patio extension which
follows, please notify a co-chair so that you may be added to the construction communications.

We encourage our PCMG volunteers to be involved in more than the routine weeding and watering. Let us help you in your volunteer growth. **We are looking for additional co-chairs.** Don't be shy, contact us about investigating this volunteer opportunity further.

**Visitors to the garden have been very complimentary of the care given by all our volunteers. We thank you for your time. Give yourself a round of applause.**

Visit our website and Like our Current Facebook page:


[https://www.facebook.com/demonstrationgarden/](https://www.facebook.com/demonstrationgarden/)

### Demo Garden Co-Chairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<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>
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**Discovery Garden**  
A Hidden Gem

We would like to give a shout out to all the MG volunteers and interns who worked so hard to make sure the garden beds looked beautiful and assisted the State Fair visitors by working a shift at the Discovery Garden. Thank You! Because of you ~ the Discovery Garden had another successful year at the Iowa State Fair!

We would also like to thank Co-Chair Dean Brand for once again representing our Discovery Garden on the WHO Radio's Gardening Today Program on Sunday, August 4th. And, for his continued support of taking photos of the Garden and posting these on our Facebook page.

Congratulations to our Discovery Garden Team Members, Jen Firzlaff and Mary Smith, who won Blue Ribbons at the Iowa State Fair! Bravo!

Jen won her Blue Ribbon in the Horticulture/Floriculture Special Classes Division in the Category of Antique Containers.

Mary won her Blue Ribbons in the Horticulture/Floriculture Grapes Division in the Categories of Plate of Grapes-Concord, Plate of Grapes-Fredonia, and Another Domestic or Wild - and, in the Plums Division in the Categories of Plums-Damson, Plums-Green Gage and Plums-Any Other Variety. Mary also mentioned that anyone interested in a Plum Tree or Root to contact her with the information which is listed in the Master Gardener Directory.

Did you like what you saw planted at the Garden this year. If so, visit our Discovery Garden website where you can view this year's Plant Book with information detailing each of the plant materials (annual and perennial) in our garden beds.
The Discovery Garden is looking beautiful. Please make some time to visit us without all the hustle and bustle of the State Fair. We can always use an extra hand on Wednesday Work Nights. So, if you are interested in earning more MG volunteer hours, please join us.

**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 to their Team.

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

Last Day of the State Fair 2019. Photo by Co-chair Dean Brand

*Enjoy the rest of your summer!*

**Co-Chairs:**
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  
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:515.657.1937

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 have our final Season of Learning session on **Tuesday, September 24th at 6:00 PM**. We will welcome Melanie Louis to the garden who will share about the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Come find out what is being done to protect and preserve Iowa's land, water and wildlife. This is a great opportunity to come out and enjoy a beautiful late summer/early fall evening while getting an hour of education to boot! Please Note: the time is a half hour earlier to ensure that we finish before dusk.

The September instance of the Saturday work sessions will be cancelled. We apologize for any inconvenience, however prior Saturday work sessions had extremely low participation. Please feel free to come out and enjoy the garden on any weekend!

If you would like to join us working in the garden, our regular work nights will continue on **every Tuesday as long as the weather is good**. Please join us any time in the late afternoon for fun, food and fellowship in the garden.

**Thanks again to all of our volunteers that help to make the garden beautiful.**

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](https://www.facebook.com/)

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### Enabling Garden Co-Chairs:
- **Sandie Hamilton** - bhamil7132@aol.com
- **Paula Winslow** - peaceinthegarden@aol.com
- **Christine Barker** - ccbark1989@aol.com

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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 or please come to our next meeting on Wednesday Sept. 4th - 6:30pm 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.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garden Tour Co-Chairs:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jodie Hand: <a href="mailto:jodiemariehand@gmail.com">jodiemariehand@gmail.com</a></td>
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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 by the Water Works Park staff.**

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.

Webinars through eXtension.org

Find educational videos from other Extension Services on e-Gro.org

Engaging New Audiences

This year we offered two sessions of an Engaging New Audiences webcast and discussion - which produced many great ideas for the Master Gardener Program!
You can find ideas from both Engaging New Audience Sessions in the shared Cybox folder. (You do not need a Box account to access this document).

Are you inspired by any of these ideas? Contact Kalsa with how you would like to get involved!

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A Note about Recording Volunteer Hours

Save yourself some time!

If you volunteer regularly for the same project - you can lump those hours together on a monthly basis when recording in the Volunteer Reporting System. For example:

If you volunteer at one of our gardens for 2 hours a week for one month, instead of 4 separate entries, you can log as one.

\[(2 + 2 + 2 + 2) = 8 \text{ hours}\]

Please just note in the description that the entry is for multiple dates.

We want you to use your valuable time helping in our projects, not just recording hours!

Thanks!

*******************************************************************************

Kalsa Parker Browning --
Natural Resources Program Coordinator

(Pronounced: Kel-sa)

Email: kparker@iastate.edu

Phone: 515-957-5768