When you think of February, you are mentally overjoyed—there are only 28 days. A short month. We can do this. February is most well-known for February 14th, Valentine's Day, which throws fear into the hearts of spouses and significant others.

According to the Society of American Florists, the average number of roses produced for Valentine's Day is 198 million. Roses follows second after candy as the gift most often given. This month I'm going to briefly talk about some of the types of roses.

There are roughly 150 known species with new varieties and types introduced each year.

The most commonly thought of rose is the Hybrid Tea Rose. This rose is the most popular rose sold at florist shops. It is believed this class began with the rose 'La France' back in 1867. The flowers are large and high-centered and stand out on long single stems.

Grandiflora roses are a combination of hybrid tea roses and floribunda roses. Some have one-bloom and some with a cluster of blooms.

Floribunda roses can be shorter bushes with smaller blooms in beautiful clusters. Floribundas with a cluster blooming habit make great landscape bushes.
Climbing roses grow elegantly up and over a fence, wall or elaborate arbor. There are large flowered climbing roses as well as miniature climbing rose bushes.

My favorite are the English Shrub Roses. These roses are repeat flowering and have exceptional fragrance. Another bonus is the large number of petals. 'Double Delight' Hybrid Tea has 30 petals where the beautiful dark pink English Rose 'Gertrude Jekyll' has 80.

The catalogs have been arriving for a couple of months. Take the time to look at the different varieties and the many, many colors available. There may be one that will be perfect for your garden.

Cheryl Fridl
Steering Committee Chairperson

2018 Educational Program Nights
2 Hours of Continuing Education

this month:

Organic Gardening Practices!

Kathleen Delate
ISU Lecturer & Extension Specialist in Organic Gardening

Thursday February 15th
These events are FREE & Open to the General Public!

Get Here Early for Dinner!
Once again there will be a free, made from scratch soup dinner before the program. If you'd like to bring a dish to share it is welcome--but not required!

Each month we'll feature a variety of soups made by our volunteers--and at least one will be a meat & dairy-free soup!
**RSVP Please!**
We need to know how many chairs--and anticipate the amount of soup to prepare, please RSVP and provide a phone number AND the names of who will attend:

*fill in the very short Google-form (preferred): [CLICK HERE]*

By phone: call Ike: 515-957-5761

Connect with your MG friends on the third Thursdays in February and March and clock two hours of great horticulture education as well!

**Location: Polk County Extension Office**

Soup Dinner: 5:30 to 6:20 PM  
Program: 6:30 to 8:30 PM

- February 15: Organic Gardening  
- March 15: Iowa’s Soils - preserving our treasure

---

**Please READ Regarding**  
**2018 Education & Service Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• You may view horticulture webinars or attend workshops and classes in a variety of locations (in &amp; out of Iowa) to meet your continuing education requirement (10 hours/calendar year).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Webinars on MG YouTube Channel: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Listening to podcasts or radio programs and reading reference books are <strong>NOT</strong> considered appropriate for continuing education credit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteer Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Polk County Master Gardener volunteers contribute in many ways in our community. <strong>Need a refresher on who to contact, where, and when those projects meet? <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> for a handy and printable reference guide to 2018 event locations &amp; dates.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Travel for Education will <strong>NOT</strong> be considered a volunteer service activity to meet your annual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Iowa Master Garden Volunteer Manual

Yes, we have a manual to guide us!

Master Gardeners extend the reach of ISU by providing current research-based information in our communities. We teach classes, coach and lead training in public places. We create and maintain educational gardens and place educational information there so the public can learn.

Doing garden maintenance at park or non-profit organization is valuable, but not always a Master Gardener volunteer activity.

Examples:

- You weed & water at your church’s garden--this does NOT qualify as MG volunteer service.
- You lead a group of youth (or adults) on how to create a display garden for your church. You teach them what, how, & where to plant. You coach, mentor, and answer questions of the volunteers who maintain the garden. Yes, you were volunteering as a MG!
- You weed & water at an educational garden (PCMG gardens and also places such as the GDBG)-do qualify as MG volunteer service.

Read more about volunteer service and education for Master Gardeners:

CLICK HERE to read/print our reference!

Questions? Call Ike: 515-957-5761

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

Greenhouse

Official Workdays begin Saturday, February 3rd!

We will start sowing seeds this Saturday!

- Regular workdays will be each Saturday and Wednesday
- Hours: 9:00 to Noon
- Dress in layers and prepare to get dirty!
- Please wear you MG name badge, sign-in and check w/ the workday manager to get an assignment.
- ONLY MG and Interns at the Greenhouse (except during the Plant Sale)
• Arrive when you can and leave when you need to.

Can you help water on non-workdays? Contact Jean Schustek.

**Greenhouse address: 9401 NW 70th, Johnston**

---

**Greenhouse Co-chairs:**

Cheryl Fridl - [cheryl.fridl@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.fridl@gmail.com)

Kent Freise - [kentfreise@gmail.com](mailto:kentfreise@gmail.com)

Jean Schustek - [jean.schustek@gmail.com](mailto:jean.schustek@gmail.com)

---

**Master Gardener Bus Tour**

We are finalizing the details of our two trips for this year. We hope to have registration forms available soon for the one day trip. On the meantime, grab your calendar and make sure you **SAVE THE DATE for both trips!**

**One Day Trip - Saturday, June 2nd**

We will be heading to the Iowa City area for our one day tour this year. We have a fun (and very busy) day planned. **Our trip includes visits to private gardens, a public garden and some great shopping opportunities for both plants and yard art.** As we have planned previous trips, we have had home gardeners suggest that we also visit their friend or neighbor's garden - this time one man suggested that we also include his brother's garden in our trip - We look forward to visiting the very different gardens that the two brothers have created in the Iowa City area!

**Three Day Trip - Friday - Sunday, July 20 - 22nd**

We are very excited to be returning to the Rockford/Janesville area for our three day trip this year. There are so many great public gardens to visit:

- Anderson Japanese Gardens
- Rotary Botanical Gardens
- Nicholas Conservatory
- Gardens, and Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden.

**As a special treat - we also have a shopping stop scheduled for The Flower Factory in Stoughton, WI.** Most people are impressed (and a little overwhelmed) with the huge selection of perennials available at this nursery. We will also make time for visits to other great nurseries in the area.
Polk County Master Gardener's
2018 Garden Tour

Preparations are underway for the 2018 Garden Tour!
There have been lots of updates to our webpage: www.pcmggardentour.com

Join the Garden Tour Committee! We will meet again:

Tuesday February 27th at 6:00 PM
Johnston Public Library - East Meeting Room

Sub-committees Meetings . . .
are held on Tuesday nights at Jodie Hands' home--6680 NW 54th Ct, Johnston

- "Activities" subcommittee: Help plan make 'n take projects & demonstrations for the gardens on tour day
  - February 6 at 6:30 PM

- "Publicity" subcommittee:
  - February 20 at 6:30

Interested in attending a sub-committee meeting? Please contact Jodie

Donations
Some of our committee members are currently looking for donations (material or monetary) in return for small advertisements in our tour day brochure.

If anyone knows a local garden related business who might be interested in making a donation to help offset printing costs or costs of materials for activities, please contact Jodie Hand or Therese Rolfes regarding this.

Helping with Garden Prep
Volunteers will be needed to prep gardens ahead of the tour.

Please sign up here.

You can click on any day from April 1 - June 29 when you are available. Host garden sponsors will contact you about assisting with garden maintenance tasks (planting, weeding, watering, etc.).

Helping on Garden Tour Day
Volunteers will be needed to set up and manage children activities and demonstrations on the day of the tour. We will need help taking tickets,
answering gardening questions, and miscellaneous tasks throughout the day. Jodie will have information closer to June on how to sign up for shifts.

Even if you aren’t on the planning committee please take the time to "Like" our pages and share it with your friends so we can get some FREE publicity through social media!

https://www.facebook.com/PCMッグardentour/

Instagram: pcmッグardentour

Questions -- call Jodie--but it is also okay to just come to our next meeting!

Save the Date: PCMG 2018 Garden Tour is Saturday, June 30!

Garden Tour Co-chairs: Eric & Jodie Hand

Primary Contact is Jodie:

• jodie.mariehand@gmail.com  319-361-9224

Secondary Contact is Eric:

• eric.hand@caseys.com  515-291-1214

Art in the Garden 2018

August 4th, 2018 - Demonstration Garden

Plans for this year's Art in the Garden fundraiser are well under way.  

*We hope to add a few more vendors and are accepting applications NOW-- Help us spread the word!*

Artist vendors do NOT have to be Master Gardeners.

Click for links to the Artist Vendor Application

Also, "like" our Facebook for event details, photos from the 2017 Art in the Garden, and updates.


Art in the Garden Co-chairs:
Demonstration Garden

The countdown towards spring continues.
Daylight hours are increasing by a rate of 2 minutes a day.

The garden still sleeps yet planning for 2018 is underway. In February there will be the bustle of interns in the annual pruning labs.

March 2nd features a Grapevine Pruning and Maintenance session from 10am - noon. This educational opportunity is open to all MG’s and trainees and will be led by Mike White, ISU Extension Viticulturist.

Our annual spring kick off meeting is scheduled for March 19th, 6:30 pm at the Urbandale Library and open to everyone.

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Demonstration Garden website. Take a moment and check it out.

http://www.demonstratongardenpcmg.org/

Happy Valentines Day!

Visit us and Like our Current Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/demonstratongarden/

Demo Garden Co-Chairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ruth Doxon</th>
<th><a href="mailto:rdoxon@gmail.com">rdoxon@gmail.com</a></th>
<th>(515) 253-9115</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
Thanks to everyone who came out to the potluck and planning meeting. Late winter is the perfect time to spend a few moments planning for the upcoming season so that we can hit the ground running when Spring finally arrives.

Save the dates:

- April 10th (Tuesday) - Central College Service Day (Time - TBD)
- April 21st (Saturday) - Enabling Garden perennial plant sale
- April 28th (Saturday) - 1:00PM Spring Clean-up
- May 1st (Tuesday) - 5:00PM First work night at the Garden
- May 15th (Tuesday) - 5:00PM EG planting day for everyone!

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered. We appreciate your time.

Please connect with us on our website

www.enablinggardenpcmg.org.

or check out current pictures and activities that are going on at the Enabling Garden:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/EnablingGarden/

Enabling Garden Co-Chairs:

- Sandie Hamilton
- Paula Winslow
- Christine Barker,
- Sharon Schoonoer

Discovery Garden

Even though it is cold, it's time to start working in the Greenhouse, something we did not think we would be doing this year!

If you have some free time please consider a trip to the Greenhouse in Johnston

We also want to recognize the efforts of two of our Discovery Garden team members, Alda and Bob Helvey. They are involved with Central Iowa Shelter Services and the following appeared in the Des Moines Parks and Rec newsletter:
"Central Iowa Shelter Services (CISS), with the leadership of Alda and Bob Helvey, reached out to our Department about horticulture volunteer opportunities, as a way of diversifying training available to their trainees. The CISS supplies the Parks Department with volunteers to perform a large variety of horticultural tasks over 12 different sites throughout the City. CISS arrived early to every project, ready to learn and to help with whatever task was at hand. The volunteers were eager and paid attention to detail. This volunteer job-training program has far reaching impacts in our community instilling work ethic, high moral values, sense of commitment to community, emphasizing education and training and will be recognized as the 2017 volunteer Group of the Year for their work changing lives and our community."

_Congratulations to Alda and Bob for their generosity and willingness to give to back to the community._

*Keep thinking warm thoughts!*

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

---

**Plant Sale**

*Mark your 2018 Calendars for May 4, 5, & 6!*

We are so excited that we are in a position to have a Plant Sale this year. There is extra pressure on us this year to make this sale our most successful ever. We are exploring possibilities for a permanent home and should we be successful it will be a costly endeavor. _I know it is early but please start thinking about what you can contribute to the sale._ Your donations translate to pure profit so don’t be shy about also asking friends, neighbors and relatives to contribute.

If you have any questions or ideas for the Plant Sale please contact one of the Co-Chairs

---
Save the Date for our Plant Sale Preview:

- Thursday, April 19th
- Polk County Extension Office
- Pot Luck at 5:45--bring a dish to share
- Program: 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Plant Sale Co-chairs:

Isabella Hurless-Banks: imhurless@aol.com
Jen Firtzlaff: skiier13@mchsi.com

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

ISU Soil Lab Now Closed

Soil samples will no longer be accepted at the ISU Soil Lab

Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship labs:

IDALS operates soil analysis labs in several locations. For more information on those lab locations, CLICK HERE.

This closing does NOT impact the operation of the Plant & Insect Diagnostic Clinic. The PIDC will continue to operate as in the past.

Education Opportunities

This newsletter was on a break in Dec. & Jan.--but will return in February.

Watch your Inbox for Growing Connections
--a monthly newsletter with horticulture workshops offered in the greater Polk County area. This e-newsletter is available to anyone, so please share with friends & family!

February Office Hours for Ike
Monday | 9:00 to 4:00  
Tuesday | 9:00 to 4:00  
Wednesday | 9:00 to 4:00  
Thursday | 9:00 to 4:00  
by appointment | call or email me . . .

Phone: 515-957-5761  
by email: nancyike@iastate.edu

-----------

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

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

Polk County Master Gardeners, 1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A, Altoona, IA 50009

SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}  
Update Profile | About our service provider
Sent by nancyike@iastate.edu in collaboration with

Try it free today