New Executive Director Arrives from Virginia

Mark Schneider arrived in October to take over the reins of the Iowa Arboretum. He worked for 32 years directing the Horticulture Department at the Virginia Zoo in Norfolk, Virginia. He implemented many rewarding community based programs and projects over his tenure at the Zoo. “The ability to work with your craft and have a positive impact on your community has been very satisfying,” Mark said. His goal is to transform the Iowa Arboretum into a world class Arboretum that is a resource to the entire state.

He has already started the wheels turning at the Arboretum. “The hiring of a new Horticulture Project Manager this spring will bring an important management piece to the Arboretum’s plant collection,” Mark said. “The Arboretum has to be a leader in providing quality educational opportunities.” He believes building a strong relationship with Iowa State University, Iowa’s horticulture community and other community based groups is critical to the success of the Arboretum.

Mark looks forward to meeting you curing your next visit to the Arboretum.

Calendar of Events:

Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, March 17
9am to 12pm

Maple Syrup Demonstration
Saturday, March 24
10am to 3pm

Soup Supper
Friday, March 30
4pm to 7pm

Spring Fever Symposium
Saturday, April 14
10am to 3pm

Arbor Day
Saturday, April 28
9am to 4pm

Mother’s Day Sale
Saturday, May 11
9am to 4pm

National Garden Day
Friday, May 11
10am to 4pm

Green Tie Affair
Friday, May 18 – 5pm

Spring Plant Sale
May 19, 20
9am to 4pm
It's still cold outside but I can feel the days getting longer. We will be enjoying the spring ephemerals, expanding tree buds, the return of green to the landscape and the reappearance of insects before you know it.

Ok, maybe not everyone looks forward to the reappearance of insects as much as I do. But those first insects of the year still stir the heart of this old entomologist. Reappearance of slugs?? Now that's a different matter.

This spring I am especially anxious to see the emergence of the plants purchased at last year's Spring Symposium. I'm looking forward to seeing my investment in hellebores come through and to have plants just like the ones pictured in the presentation by Richard and Judith Tyler!

My past 3 months as the new President of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Arboretum have been a pleasant mixture of discovery, excitement and panic. What more could you want in a volunteer position with a non-profit organization?

Discovering the breadth and depth of Arboretum activities and the dedication and accomplishments of the staff has been eye-opening. There's a lot goes on out there! But there is so much more we could be doing, and things we could be doing better.

Working with our new Executive Director Mark Schneider and the other members of the Board and Executive Committee has been interesting and rewarding. Mark, in only 4 months, is off to a fast start with plans for programming, improvements, fundraising, and operations. Looking ahead, however, we see the struggles (mostly financial!) to sustain and grow the Arboretum to meet our potential.

That's where you come in. If you haven't recently renewed your membership, please do so. If you have renewed, thank you. And while you're at it, tell your friends, family and neighbors about the Arboretum and ask them to join, too. And don't forget the Arboretum's volunteer opportunities for all interests and skill levels. Volunteering, special events and visiting the Arboretum are all ways for you to see the Arboretum grow under our new director's leadership.

See you at the Arboretum!

Donald Lewis
Home Grown Holidays

Volunteer Recognition

Waffle Breakfast

Education
Ask an Iowan to describe a magnolia and the likely answer will be “a large spreading tree full of pink flowers in mid April.” Around the Iowa State University campus, magnolias and VEISHEA parades go together. The tree being described is *Magnolia X soulangiana* or saucer magnolia (usually rated Zone 5), the only tree form magnolia widely planted throughout the state. Star magnolia or *Magnolia stellata* (Zone 4) is also familiar to gardeners. This is a very hardy shrub. White flowering ‘Royal Star’ from the University of Minnesota is the most often planted and a reliable performer. Indeed, this is the first magnolia my husband and I chose from a local nursery—but then we “branched out”, bad pun intended.

We purchased our next magnolia from a specialty nursery, Klehm’s, now Klehm’s Song Sparrow. It was the yellow flowering ‘Butterflies’ (rated Zone 4), now thriving in our back yard for 16 years and one of the joys of spring. We call our neighbors over or even plan a “magnolia tea” to give it the attention it deserves. As with other magnolias, it is also a handsome tree throughout the season.

I’m the plant collector in the family but this tree gave us both magnolia fever. We wanted to find more—expand the color range and bloom season, and fit them into more places. My husband never says “no” to another magnolia. The yellows intrigue, after all, pink is widely represented among spring-flowering crabapples, lilacs, spirea and more, but what is yellow? We’ve added ‘Yellow Bird’, ‘Limelight’, and ‘Lois’ to our collection. Appropriately, ‘Lois’ is the most impressive! It’s planted behind a redbud with several years head start, but when it catches up, the yellow fronted by magenta will be the showstopper of the season.

Fortunately, this is the right time for all Iowans to catch magnolia fever! Breeders at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and elsewhere—Phil Savage, Dennis Ledvina, Bill Seidl, and now Roy G. Klehm—are giving us many choices of hardy (to Zone 4 or 5) cultivars with white, pink, purple, yellow, cream, and blends. Even star magnolia comes in white, pink, and yellow forms. And gardeners can select upright or spreading forms of tree magnolias.

At the Spring Fever Symposium, magnolia expert Roy G. Klehm will provide us with so much more information on these wonderful plants. Attendees will also be able to purchase magnolia cultivars including the iconic small tree ‘Elizabeth’ with creamy yellow flowers, and my favorite ‘Butterflies’ as well as several whites, creams, pinks, and purples. Hope to see you there! Lois Girtion is a past member of the Board of Directors at the Iowa Arboretum and the Program Coordinator for Undergraduate Genetics at Iowa State University.
White fir (Abies concolor) is one of my favorite conifers.

The White Fir is a large, coniferous tree deserving of being more widely planted. Superficially, it resembles the Colorado blue spruce, but upon closer inspection reveals softer, longer needles that gracefully curve upward. Needles are up to 2" long, and soft and flexible to the hand’s grip of a stem. (Spruces, on the other hand, have needles that are sharp and prickly to the hand’s grip.)

Concolor translates as "same color" referring to the upper and lower needle surfaces being the same color, unlike most firs, which have solid green or blue upper surfaces, and striped silvery lower surfaces.

Abies concolor is one of my favorite conifers.

Abies concolor has a number of attributes that make it a good choice for Iowa landscapes. It is:

- easily transplanted
- tolerant of a range of climates and city conditions
- less fussy about soil moisture than other Abies sp.
- somewhat adaptable to poor soils, compacted soils, heat, and drought, though its best performance occurs in full sun in moist, sandy-loam, rich soils
- few diseases or pests
- most adaptable of all Abies sp. to cultivation

Its uses in the landscape also recommend it for home gardens. Abies concolor is beautiful as a specimen tree. Its formal form and blue color add interest to the landscape. Its various cultivars form an interesting group of plants, smaller in stature (dwarf), some bluer, some yellow in winter, some weeping, some narrow.

One of the nicest of these dwarf forms is ‘Compacta’ - a handsome dwarf form with an irregular habit and blue needles. The Jacobsen Collection at the Iowa Arboretum includes a nice specimen of this cultivar.

Abies concolor is also one of the slower growing conifers, which can be either an asset or a drawback. In the case of the straight species, I consider it an asset. It matures at about 40' tall by 15' wide in 10-15 years, so it doesn’t outgrow its space as soon as other conifers, since most of us have a tendency to plant our plants too close together. An impatient gardener may find this to be a drawback, but I would suggest that there is an advantage to having plants with different growth rates.

A final reason to consider Abies concolor is that it is a good replacement for Colorado blue spruce (Picea pungens) which is overused and subject to several fungal diseases: Cytospora canker, the most prevalent and destructive fungal disease of Colorado blue spruce; and Rhizosphaera needle cast, a common foliar disease of spruces and other conifers. Colorado blue spruce is particularly susceptible to Rhizosphaera and can be severely damaged by this disease.

I encourage you to visit the Iowa Arboretum and pay particular attention to not only Abies concolor ‘Compacta,’ but the other conifers as well to see what a beautiful and varied group of plants this is. Ellen Kelley is currently serving as a member of the Board of Directors at the Iowa Arboretum and is the Past President of the American Conifer Society.
**New Members**

Clare Cap
Diane DelHeer
Dan & Kim Edsall
Lisa Irana
Grinnell Area Garden Club
JoAnn Kassel
Ellen Kelley
Cindy Larson
Robin Madison
Joe Mengel
Dale & Kelly Morrow
Burnie Snoddy
Mary Swedlund
Byron & Eileen Westrum

**Renewals**

Don Adams & Nan Boniels
Alton Fed. Garden Club
Sheri Albrecht
Carroll & Martha Anderson
Bob & Libby Angelici
Ernie & Pat Aust
Violet Baker
Jim & Linda Bellomy
Kenneth & Helen Barnes
Lois Barnes
Neil & Laurie Barrick
Trudy Barry
Edith Barton
Don & Terry Behrens
Earl & Doris Benjamin
Kelli Bennett
Dixie Benshoff
Dwain & Marjorie Beitner
Jamie Boyer
David & Jutina Bower
Pat Boucher
Dean & Adele Bowden
Juliene Bramer
Robert & Nancy Briggs
Vernon Brodeen
Philip & Family Broer
Judith Brooks
Aldo & Donna Bulgarelli
Burke, Carole
Steve Bush
Michael & Anne Campbell
Keith & Martha Carlson
Robert Carstens
Vern & Catherine Chalstrom
Earl & Judy Check
Norman & Beth Cheville
Sandra Cistiman
LeRoy & Rosamond Clark
Glenchuck Clutter
Roger & Janice Clutter
Ruth Coleman
Denny Cooper
Linda Cooper
Sally Courter
Clifton & Charlene Cox

Darrell & Janice Cox
Jan Craig
Shirley Dahl
Dallas County Master Gardeners
Craig & Teresa Davenport
Kirby Davidson
Ann Davidson
Todd Davidson
Jean Davis
Mr & Mrs Gregory Deiter
Elizabeth Dobbs
Daryl & Darlene Doerr
Donaldson, Loren & Nancy
Sue Doolittle
John & Julie Dow
John Dresser
Robert & Dorothy Drilling
Diane Dubberke
Jan Shira
Evening Star Federated Garden Club
John & Kathy Evers
Jake & Darla Ewalt
Charlotte Feddersen
Marvin Feller
Bill & Deb "renneklos
Bob Fisher & Family
Brenda Fisher
Mary Lou Fisher
Glory & Diane Foristall
Randy & Nancy Franke
Baron Wynne Frazee
Connie Funk
Martha Gallagher
Ted & Deanna Garwood
Marlow Gay
James & Marilyn Gaylor
John Richard Gerdes, Jr.
Mike & Anne Gerrie
Arnold Geske
Monte & Katherine Gibbs
Roberta & Barron, Joseph Glift
Jack & Lois Gitson
Tom & Colleen Good
Jim & Nancy Grabau
Carl & Marcene Grant
David & Jeanette Grant
Juanita Grant
Brent Gudatowski
George Hines
Gordy & Marcy Hanman
Dennis Harner
Margie Hartman
David Hauser
H. William & Irlanda Helgren
Larry & Sharon Henn
Margaret Hempel
Bob & Carol Henderson
Jim & Pat -Enkel
Carolyn Herrfeldt
Lyle & Gloria Herrfeldt
Paul & Leatrice Hinz

Bill Horine
Chris Hoekim
Jaque Hoaug
Ted & Susan Hutchinson
Iowa City Landscaping
Deb Jacobson
Michael Jansen
Howard Jensen
Douglas J. Jones
Chuck & Carolyn Jorns
Nick Jordan
Tom Jordan
Barb Kahler
Janella Kamman
Janet Kardam
Clair & Marilyn Keller
Sue Kemmerer
Duane & Lucille Kent
Mr & Mrs JH Kent
Michael J. Kittich
Wayne & Karen Klaiber
Bonnie Klaver
Joe & Marlene Klansky
Knoxville Federated Garden Club
Lisa Kobenzlik
Bobbie Koontz
Steve & Connie Krick
Pete & Barbara Krumlauf
Lois Kuhl
Nancy Kursie
Liz Kurt
Robert & Lynne Lafollette
James & Arlene Lajoie
Mina Landers
Robert & Susan Tankard
Kevin J. Lantz
Lynette Laniz
Lucille Larson
Mary Larson
Maxine Larson
Kathleen Law
Rex Lawler
Mick & Marie Leat
Don & Wilma Leson
Donald & Dorothy Lewis
Terry & Debra Lewis
Vicki Lewis
Stephen Lindner
Ruth Lindman
Jane Lohme
Elizabeth Loospeich
Beth Lovejoy
Ruth Lowe
Galen & Davi Lowman
William & Anne Lundahl
Gene & Naomi Maahs
James & Erica MacBeth
Nancy Macklin
Diane MacKenzie
Carolyn Magnani
Carol Main
Erwin Mall
Monetary Gifts

Jo Beth Malone-Schoneberg
Jona Mann
Dr. William & Beverly Marion
Jerry & Sunny Marker
Marshalltown Garden Club
Gary Mason
George & Mary Maybee
Barbara J McCune
Karine McLaughlin
TGOA-MGCA Mid America Region
David & Laura Miller
Mary Ellen Miller
Rosemary Mitchum
Chris & Krista Moffitt
Russ & Mollie Moore
Dr John & Judy Murphy
Murphy’s Walnut Hill Nursery
Hugh & Maurine Myers
Jim & Chris Neary
Bud & Joyce Nichol
Tom & Deb Niehof
Betty Nikkel
Don & Evelyn Nystrom
Tom & Elaine Oftedal
Roseanne O’Harra
Bob & Kathy Oliver
Chuck & Jackie Olson
Greg & Sue Olson
Paul & Connie Orton
Gary & Sue Osweiler
Mike & Christie Overton
Martin & Deb Ozga
Maxine Packard
Loeda Paine
John & Cindy Paschen
Douglas & Janice Pedersen
Pella Garden Club
Stephen & Kathy Perrin
Dorothy Peter
Joan Peterson & Joe Burris
Todd & Lisa Pfiffner
Philip & Jeanine Pfister
Jo & Kris Philips
Mike & Marcia Pickell
Bion & Marcia Pierson
Sue Posch
Linda Powell
David & Andrea Price
Steve Price
Montie & Suzanne Redenius
David W Reed
Deb Reiter & Terri Vehnkkamp
Kevin & Jean Rhodes
Edward & Kelli Rinderspacher
Mervyn & Nan Ripley
Jennifer Robinson
Richard & Karen Ross
Roswell and Elizabeth Garst Foundation
Wayne & Joyce Rouse
Marjorie Rudert & Gary Shull
Barbara Rush
Ruth Ryan
Mary & Barb Saathoff

Dick & Nel Sampel
Frank Schaller
Janis Scharringston
Robert & Jeanine Schaub
Jim & Amy Schleier
Sarat Schnucker Rice
Janet Schultz
Hazel Seaba
Clyde & Kay Seery
Delbert & Jeanette Selk
Marty Severson
Kay Shapiro
Pat Sheehan
Richard & Evelyn Shibles
Betty Sievers
Valerie Singer
Gilbert & Marion Smith
Scott & Teresa Smith
Dan & Beth Solomon
Paula Stanberry
David & Janet Stephenson
Frances A Stetson
Cecil Stewart
Linda Stoll
Michael & Jane Ann Stout
John & Kathy Strom
Ted & Fran Stueck
John & Jeannie Sullivan
Elisabeth Swain
Clayton & Ruth Swenson
Walt & Anne Szelag
Carolyn Taphorn
Arthur Tellin
Jayne Thompson
Troy & Ruth Thompson
Jim & Becky Turbes
George Van de Voort
Pete & Judy Van der Linden
Gen Van Horn
Alan Vandehaar
Victor & Sallie Verrette
Phil Voges
Bob & Mary Jo Wagner
Jim & Madeline Walker
Carl Wehner
Marilyn Weigel
Duane & Mary Rose Weiland
Rita Weinberg
Bill Weller
Bud & Bonnie Wells
Jeanne White
Todd & Teresa White
Bill & Toni Whitman
Mark Widdelechner
Dave Wilken
Dee Williams
Stan & Shirley Williams
Fred & Audra Wilson
Daryl & Sally Winter
Hank & Betty Witt
Patti Woo
Leonard & Georganne Woodruff
Barbara Wright

Dr. Kathy Wurster

Monetary Gifts

Duane Anderson
Loretta Angerer
Richard & Sunday Antrim
Norman & Ruth Baker
Steve & Pat Baker
Jean Beck
Dwain & Marjorie Betten
Boone Garden Club
Gov. Terry & Chris Branstad
Richard & Phyllis Braverman
John Jr. & Jean Brayton
Art & Martha Buechler
George & Agatha Burnet
Marie Butler
Richard Carlson
Judy Cox
David & Linda Cranston
Ann Davidson
Michael & Nancy Davis
Don & Dee Draper
Randy Elder
Jane Flanagan
Fleming Family Foundation
Shari Gillespie
Patricia Girton
Mark Gordon
Mary Hays
Jim & Jacquie Hodgson
Jane Hommel
Alice Hughes-Speraw
Garnita Johnson
John & Marilyn Jordan
Richard & Kate Jordan
Marianne Klimsk
Jean Kolmer
Herman & Helen Kopitzke
Marvin & Isabelle Lemke
Gene & Naomi Maahs
Mailander Law Firm
Karen Mailander
Margaret Stanton Questers #310
Robert & Lois McCully
Leo & Jane Millemann
Dean & Nancy Morris
Bernard Mauw
Jack & Judy Murphy
Janice Nelson
Nollie, Carl
Rosanne O’Harra
James Petersen
Reuben & Irene Peterson
Bion & Marcia Pierson
Steve Price
Maxine Redeker
Randy & Rhonda Ruark
Frank Schaller
Janis Scharringston
LeRoy Sigmund
Archie Sleethard
John Snedden
Students from Iowa State University are evaluating the 60 acre woodland trail area this Spring.

Left to Right: Andrew Gilbert, Laura Helmich and Ashley Shepard
Pancake Breakfast - Saturday, March 17 - 9am to 12 noon
Delicious pancake breakfast, complete with sausage, maple syrup, orange juice and coffee. $6 per person, free for children 5 and younger.

Maple Syrup Demonstrations – March 24 – 10am to 3pm
Taste real maple syrup and learn about the art and science of maple syrup production by Iowa State University Assistant Professor Dr. Jesse A. Randall. Xi Sigma Pi members will be preparing a pancake breakfast to help support their honor society.

Soup Supper - March 30 – 4pm to 7pm
Enjoy hot soup and warm conversation. $6 per person, free for children 5 and younger.
Dr. Donald Lewis will inform and entertain you with insect stories.

Spring Fever Symposium – April 14 – 10am to 3pm
Well known speaker Roy Klehm will speak about hardy magnolias and peonies. $45 for members, $55 for non-members (early registration) Register online or by calling the Arboretum.

Arbor Day - April 28 - 9am to 4pm
The Iowa Arboretum will be giving away free tree seedlings and conducting fun activities for families.

Mother’s Day Sale – May 12 – 9am to 4pm
Iowa Arboretum Mother’s Day Gift Shop Sale. Great savings throughout the day.

National Garden Day – May 11 – 10am-4pm
Iowa Arboretum joins Reiman Gardens, Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, Brenton Arboretum and Better Homes and Gardens Test Garden in celebrating National Garden Day.
Tours at each site.

Green Tie Affair – May 18 - 5pm.
Iowa Arboretum hosts the Green Tie Affair. A fun fundraiser featuring tasty delights, auction and a plant sale.

Spring Plant Sale - May 19 & 20 – 9am to 4pm
Iowa Arboretum Annual Spring Plant Sale. Find unique and interesting plants for your Iowa garden.

Future Calendar Events:
- Classic Car Day - June 10 – 12pm to 3pm – See your favorite vintage cars at the Arboretum
- Bus Trip to Mason City to visit Frank Lloyd Wright Architecture and Gardens – September 19

Green Tie Affair

Early Bird Plant Sale and Auction of Unusual Plants and Unique Garden Accessories

Friday, May 18, 2012

5:00pm Early-Bird Plant Sale begins
6:00pm Drinks and appetizers will be served
6:30pm Auction begins
Tickets: $25 per person

Join us for food, friends, fundraising and incredible plants!
A New Look

The Iowa Arboretum newsletter is taken on a new look for 2012. The Arboretum was informed in November that Iowa Gardening magazine will not be continuing publication. The Arboretum is now producing its own newsletter four times a year bringing you the latest information about the Arboretum, its plant collection, and future growth. The newsletter will arrive at your home in February, May, August and November. Suggest a name for the newsletter and if your name is selected you will win a $25 gift certificate to the Arboretum’s gift shop. Also, let us know what you would like to see included in the newsletter by contacting us at info@iowaarboretum.org

Reduce your Carbon Footprint and Save Trees

Receive your newsletter via email by contacting us at info@iowaarboretum.org. The newsletter can also be downloaded from the Arboretum’s website at www.iowaarboretum.org.

8 simple ways to contribute to the success of the Arboretum:

1. Buy a membership for a friend or family member
2. Honor or memorialize a loved one by purchasing a tree, a bench or a medalion
3. Plan your wedding, special event or meeting at the the Arboretum
4. Attend an educational program or event at the Arboretum
5. Take advantage of volunteer opportunities
6. Make you next donation to the Iowa Arboretum
7. Shop at the Arboretum gift shop
8. Tell a friend about the great experience you had at the Arboretum

Open Sunrise to Sunset
Discover hundreds of species of trees, shrubs, and flowers in a tranquil setting as well as woodland trails and prairie walk.