SPRING FEVER SYMPOSIUM 2013

Saturday, April 13th, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Focus on Succulents with Debra Lee Baldwin

Increasingly we rely on container plantings to provide rabbit-proof, summer-long color and texture on the patios surrounding our home in Ames. Keeping these watered during summer 2012 required... let’s just say, diligence. Likewise, at the Iowa Arboretum, Horticulture Project Manager Joe McNally arrived just in time to take up the challenges of a severely moisture-deprived landscape.

So it seemed an opportune time for “water-wise plantings” as a topic for the annual Spring Fever Symposium. The Arboretum is very fortunate to have booked the expert – Debra Lee Baldwin, author of the best-selling books Designing with Succulents (2007) and Succulent Container Gardens (2010), for our April 13th event. As Debra writes on her website, www.debralee baldwin.com, succulents “are surging in popularity because they are low-maintenance, low-water and cool to look at and collect. They grow well in containers and add year-round color and interest to frost-free gardens.” Of course, we don’t have frost-free gardens but I’ve successfully overwintered succulents under lights or on windowsills for the past 7 or 8 years. And Debra’s designs for in-ground planting can be adapted for this area by choosing appropriate hardy sedums, Rosularia, and hen and chicks (Sempervivum and Jovibara species).

The focus of the morning talk will be on using succulents in containers, wall gardens, wreaths, bouquets, topiaries and more. After lunch and a book signing, Debra will demonstrate some extraordinary planting combinations with a lucky participant taking home one of her fabulous creations. The Arboretum will be offering a selection of hardy and non-hardy succulents, clearly identified, at the accompanying plant sale.

This year’s presentations will be quite a departure from our usual theme of hardy perennials or trees and will appeal to plant collectors as well as to flower arrangers and those who garden in small spaces. To ensure great viewing for the demonstration, we are limiting the event to 100 participants. You can register by calling the Iowa Arboretum (515-795-3216) or online at www.iowar boretum.org. The early bird rate is $45 for members and $55 for non members (until March 29th).

Lois Girton
Volunteer Chair for the Symposium

MARCH 2013 – MAY 2013
NEWSLETTER
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAPLE SYRUP DAY
Saturday, March 2, 2013
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Iowa State University Assistant Professor Dr. Jesse A. Randall will share the art and science of maple syrup production. Learn about tapping trees, tour the grounds and dine on pancakes prepared by Iowa State University’s Forestry Honor Society Xi Sigma Pi.
Fee: $6

SECOND SATURDAY MORNING EDUCATIONAL SERIES WITH JOE MCNALLY
Saturday, March 9, 2013
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Topic: Designing with Perennials
Joe will explore the importance of garden design and the elements that pull a garden together.
Fee: $10 for members and $15 for non members

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Saturday, March 16, 2013
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Iowa Arboretum’s own Kevin Lantz and his wonderful family members will be making scrumptious pancakes for the day. Come hungry and challenge Kevin to make special shaped pancakes for you.
Fee: $6 per person, free for children 5 and younger

SOUP SUPPER
Friday, March 29, 2013
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Come and join us for a tasty bowl of soup and warm conversation at the Arboretum.
Sponsored by the Ames Garden Club and Quam Insurance - Boone
Fee: $6 per person and 5 and younger are free

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MARCH 2013 – MAY 2013
IOWA ARBORETUM NEWSLETTER

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Mark Schneider
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Kevin Lantz – Wedding Coordinator/Horticulturist
Joe McNally – Horticulture Project Manager
Lori Salati – Bookkeeper

THE CONNECTION
Mark Schneider – Executive Director

Last fall a diverse group gathered to craft a Strategic Plan for the Iowa Arboretum. They focused on developing a plan for guiding the Arboretum into the future by reviewing what the Arboretum is today and what it should become as it moves forward. All of us owe them a giant “thank you” for the time and thought they invested in this timely and important process.

Three themes emerged from their discussion – education, conservation and research. While we can measure classes offered, plantings maintained, and lessons learned through scientific observation, it’s harder to put a number value on one of the most significant attributes: providing an open, quiet and safe haven free from day-to-day stresses and distractions.

So, as the ground begins to thaw and you feel the urge to reconnect with growing things, remember the Iowa Arboretum is a place to simply be.

Come out and join us in experiencing its natural beauty and peacefulness.

Committee Members: Don Draper, Ann Hutchins, Donald Lewis, Joe McNally, Jesse Randall, Ed Rinderspacher, Mark Schneider, John Wassenaar

MY FAVORITE TREE  |  Carya illinoinensis

Jeff Carstens is currently serving as the interim Curator of Woody Landscape Plants at the USDA-ARS North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station in Ames, Iowa.  jeffrey.carstens@ars.usda.gov

One of my favorite trees is pecan, Carya illinoinensis. Native to portions of the south-central United States, this species can be found northward along the Mississippi River as far north as east-central Iowa. As the largest of the hickories, pecan is a long-lived, large (30 to 45 meter tall) shade tree that typically inhabits floodplains and bottomlands. Pecans have evolved to occupy saturated (anaerobic) conditions, making it adaptable to compacted, urban soils. In addition, pecan is extremely drought tolerant and has little to no reported disease or insect problems in Iowa. Pecans are known for their strong central leader creating an attractive pyramidal shape. Exciting, attractive ornamental attributes include dark green leaves, yellow fall color, and coarse textured bark. To ensure nut production in Iowa, selection of northern provenances is recommended. One can appreciate specimens growing in the Nut Collection of the Iowa Arboretum or view extremely large specimens in the Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge in Louisa County.
**VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE TRUE GIVING**

John Lantz is a volunteer at the Iowa Arboretum and resides in Pomeroy. John worked as a custodian at the local school for over 40 years. He is a father of three and enjoys fishing, needlework and working in the yard. In the early years of volunteering at the Iowa Arboretum, John and his wife Donna grilled food for the annual plant sales and fried sausage for the pancake breakfast. After retirement they were able to spend more time volunteering. Since Donna’s passing, John continues to spend many hours helping with special events and weddings.

John’s son Kevin works at the Arboretum as the Wedding Coordinator and Horticulturist and his daughter Lynette helps with special events and maintains the bird feeders. John, Lynette and Kevin are an important part of the Iowa Arboretum Family.

Change **YOUR** life and volunteer at the Arboretum.

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**PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

**Jim Childs** is an associate editor with Garden Gate Magazine, an August Home publication, in Des Moines. He previously worked at the former Heard Gardens, as well as several other retail garden centers in the Des Moines area. Jim’s a life-long gardener and enjoys sharing his knowledge. He’s also a 5th generation owner of a farm near Manchester where he grew his first flowers and now plants the overflow from his garden in Des Moines.

**Don Draper** is a retired veterinarian and emeritus faculty member from Iowa State University. Don and his wife Dee live northwest of Ames where they nurture an extensive hosta collection, numerous perennials, a prairie garden and a forest with many Iowa native trees and woodland plants. Don and Dee volunteer at the Iowa Arboretum and Reiman Gardens. They are Master Gardeners and received the 2012 Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Story County Master Gardener’s Association. They are members of the Iowa Arboretum, Reiman Gardens, the Story County Master Gardener Association, The American Hosta Society, The Midwest Hosta Society, the Russ O’Harra Hosta Society, and the American Horticulture Society.

**Jane Flanagan**, CFRE, MA, is Director of Development of the HCI Foundation, formerly known as Hospice of Central Iowa Foundation. (CFRE stands for Certified Fundraising Executive) Jane is a Master Gardener, a plant collector, and has a great appreciation of the Iowa Arboretum. She and her husband, Steve, own a large wooded acreage near Van Meter which they have been working toward preserving and protecting from development.

**Linda Grieve** is Past President of the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association, the Iowa Senator for American Nursery and Landscape Association, GCA Zone XI Horticulture Representative, and owner/operator of Perennial Gardens in Ankeny. She will be a valuable connection to the Iowa nursery trade as well as a link to national resources. She and her husband have three daughters — one in Minneapolis, one in Las Vegas and one in Seattle — all of whom welcome her gardening advice. Her gardening expertise covers many growing zones.
At the Iowa Arboretum

Joe McNally - United Community School
Brown Garden Club
Dave Grant, Troy Thompson, John Wassenaar
Noah and Sawyer Bass
Holiday Gala - Pete Bilden, Dave Boehm
Janna and Darren Heater
Marilyn Gliem and Delores Lientz
Fall Bulb Planters
Madrid Garden Club
Volunteer of the Year - John Snedden
Summer-Blooming Bulbs

Spring is just around the corner and you ran out of time to work on the garden design during the cold winter months. Don’t worry, you can still create a wonderful and unique display that stops garden visitors in their tracks. Scratch that spring garden itch by planting some summer-blooming bulbs. Tuck these low maintenance plants into the small spaces between existing shrubs to create new garden interest. Or plant them in mass to create a stunning foliage display and fill up those large open areas in your garden. To clear the air, I use the word “bulb” as a general term for all true bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes. They have some physiological differences but all function basically the same. Plant, water and step back and wait for the show.

Some of the bulbs in this article are hardy in Central Iowa’s Zone 5, including a few natives; others are more tropical and need extra effort to produce an encore performance in following years. Know the hardiness of plants you purchase so you’re not disappointed if they don’t make a repeat performance next year. Also be wary of the hungry ground squirrel. Be sure to get planting instructions and wintering-over recommendations from the nursery where you buy the bulbs. Often winter storage can be done in an attached garage or in the coolest spot in the basement. Feel free to email me, joe@iowaarboretum.org, for tips and tricks that I have picked up over the years.

If you are like me then you like “living on the edge” of your hardiness zone. With a little focus and keen observation you can identify microclimates in your yard. Microclimates are the small, protected environments in the garden where unique plants, some you may have dismissed because of hardiness, are able to thrive. Trees, shrubs, buildings and even a rock wall can create a specialized habitat where you can grow your own little test garden. Identify these niches in your garden and get planting. The chances you take can be costly, but the rewards of success can build confidence and enlighten your inner garden guru. Scire hortum tuum non nimis expendunt, in other words, know your garden and don’t spend too much!

Pictured are my “Top Ten Summer Interest Bulbs.” I only get so much room in the newsletter so visit our website for more selections. Several unique varieties will be available at the Iowa Arboretum Green Tie Affair and Spring Plant Sale on May 3rd, 4th and 5th. Go to iowaarboretum.org for event details.
If you are reading this you no doubt have some affinity toward the Iowa Arboretum. Perhaps you are a member because you embrace the Iowa Arboretum’s mission, or appreciate the useful role it carries out in our state. It may be that you simply enjoy coming onto the grounds and taking in the beautiful surroundings.

How can we assure that the Iowa Arboretum can continue to thrive now?

Your support can start with something as easy as a monthly or annual gift. Most nonprofit organizations have to work hard to have money coming in to meet their financial obligations, and the Iowa Arboretum is no different. Though we may love coming out and enjoying the beauty of the property during our favorite season, the expenses go on year round.

How can we assure that the Iowa Arboretum will still be thriving for future generations?

Your future gift could be as simple as remembering the Iowa Arboretum in your will. Naming the Arboretum as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or IRA is another straight forward way to give. Planned gifts through your estate don’t have to be complicated. Certainly there are many effective yet complex ways to leave money to the nonprofit organization of your choice, but sometimes the simple and straight forward methods are just as effective.

Many planned gifts have directions regarding the use of the funds. For example, you could leave a gift and designate it to support the educational classes that go on throughout the year. Giving through your estate should be discussed with your legal, tax or other financial advisors to insure that your wishes are clear.

Contact the Iowa Arboretum if you would like to begin the discussion of a possible current or planned gift. Let’s make sure our living museum continues to be a jewel in the crown of the state of Iowa for many years to come.

Troy Thompson, CFP® is a financial advisor and owner of Thompson Financial, Inc. in Boone, IA. Troy and his family are also long time members of the Iowa Arboretum. Consult your tax, legal or other financial advisors to receive guidance in making gifts to this or any other nonprofit organization. He can be reached at (515) 432-5421 or at troy@thompsonfinancialinc.com

A special thank you to Jeanine and Bob Carithers for donating 40 acres of land near the Arboretum as a memorial for their son Brian Carithers.
DONATIONS, NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

NOV 1, 2012 – JAN 31, 2013

New Members
Emma Brunner
Robert & Jeanine Carithers
Jim Childs
Scott & Janeen Denhart
Jo Erb
Lori Good
Jon & Jill Lowman
Judy Porter
Barbara Schipper
Mary Schlapkohl
Bruce Wright

Renewals
Afton Federated Garden Club
Shei Albrecht
Norman & Ruth Barker
Trudy Barry
Earl & Doris Benjamin
Dixon Benshoff
Pete & Mary Belden
Julieene Bramer
Vernon Brodeen
Philip & Kathryn Broer
Aldo & Donna Bulgarelli
Carole Bunde
Steve Bush
Sandra Chrisman
Clifton & Charlene Cox
Shirley Dahl
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Sue Doolittle
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Jan Ehrig
Melinda Ehrig
Bob & Barbara Erickson
John & Kathy Evers
Jake & Darla Ewalt
Marvin Feller
Richard & Carolyn Finnestad
Brenda Fisher
Jane Flanagan
Diane Forristall
Bromwyn Frame
Arnold Geske
Monte & Katherine Gibbs
Jack & Lois Giron
Brent Gustason
Kathryn Hardy
Dennis Hansen
David & Judy Hauser
Lisa Hein
H. William & Irlanda Helgen
Margaret Hemphill
Bob & Carol Henderson
Lyle & Gloria Herrold
Highland Park Garden Club
Paul & Lea Hinze
David & Judy Hoffman
Jacque Hough
Walter & Maridel Jackson
Douglas W. Jones
Charles & Carolyn Jons
Janelle Kammin
Clair & Marilinn Keller
Bonita Klaver
Forest Knight & Judy Russell
Bea Koantz
Brenda Kruse
Lois Kuhl
Tom & Liz Kurt
Robert Laloflette
James & Arlene Lager
Bob & Sue Lankford
Lynette Lantz
Mary Frances Larson
Maxine Larson
Rex Lawler
Donald & Dorothy Lewis
Vicki Lewis
Stephan & Debra Lindner
Carnia Magnani
Ed Mall & Julie Christian
William & Beverly Marion
Jerry & Sunny Marker
Eleanor Mathews
George & Mary Maybee
Phillip & Lucille McCrea
Jeri McGinnis
David & Laura Miller
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Ann Schwartz
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Bety Sievers
Valerie Singer
Gilbert & Marion Smith
Paula Stanberry
Cecil Stewart
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Jim & Becky Turbes
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Rita Weinberg
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Deb Willey and John Schmidt
Beth Wilson
Daryl & Sally Winter
Hank Witt

New Supporting Members
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Renewing Supporting Members
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In Memory of Jeff Schwandt
Barbara Sylvester

In Memory of George Burnet for the Agatha Burnet Memorial Fund
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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.

Brief Biographies of Early Iowa Horticulturist
Professor Harry E. Nichols spent his professional life teaching and performing extension work for the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State University. In 1971, Professor Nichols was asked by the president of the Iowa State Horticulture Society to write about the people who were prominent in the Society over the past 100 years. The manuscript was printed in 2012 and is now available to the public. Obtain your free copy of the manuscript by calling the Arboretum at 515.795.3216 or at info@iowaarboretum.org (shipping is free).

Membership Perk
An Iowa Arboretum Membership is the perfect gift for birthdays, holidays, and special occasions. The membership card is a passport to America’s garden treasures. Receive special admission privileges in addition to discounts on gift shop purchases and special events at horticultural organizations throughout North America. Booklets are available at the Arboretum.