Save the Date

IOWA ARBORETUM SPRING FEVER SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, April 5, 2014 • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Join us for this fifth annual educational event full of information to jumpstart your spring gardening. This year’s speaker is the nationally renowned senior curator of the Denver Botanic Garden, Panayoti Kelaidis. He will give two programs, the first entitled “Petite Gems for Your Iowa Garden: alpines to spice up troughs, slopes, and borders.” The second is “Nature Rocks! Using stones naturalistically to enhance garden spaces.”

Panayoti Kelaidis is the recipient of numerous awards for his writing, speaking, curating, and plant introductions including the high honor of winning the Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal from Swarthmore College. Lauren Springer Ogden, the Arboretum’s first Spring Fever Symposium speaker, says this about Panayoti: “Among rock gardeners, he is considered one of the premier practitioners of the art and science of alpine gardening.” Link to her full article in Horticulture at http://www.hortmag.com/gardens-and-gardeners/great-gardeners/rare-plantsman-panayoti-kelaidis or check out his blog at www.prairiebreak.blogspot.com.

The day includes morning coffee, lunch from the South Union Bakery, and the sale of alpines. Early bird pricing is in effect until March 22nd with the event being limited to 100 participants. We anticipate a sell-out crowd for this popular speaker, so register early online at www.iowaarboretum.org or call 515-795-3216.

Arboretum members: $45; non-members: $55 until March 22nd; $55 (members) and $65 (non-members) after March 22nd.
Stunning ornamental attributes, along with hardiness and an absence of pest or disease problems make Seventh Son Flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*) one of my favorite trees. Famed plant explorer E.H. Wilson first collected this rare tree in 1907 in the Hebei region of China. Today, it’s known to occur in only nine locations in the wild. The Arnold Arboretum thought its outstanding characteristics deserved wider planting and introduced it to the public in 1980.

Seventh Son Flower is categorized as a small tree, usually multi-stemmed, attaining a height of 25’ and a spread of 15’. Dark green, blemish-free leaves adorn this plant until October when they turn a pale yellow. The real show begins in late August. White, fragrant, jasmine-like blooms, which appeal greatly to pollinators, appear and last for two weeks. Then a second season of “bloom” commences. The calyces, which in most plants wither away, turn hot pink, creating a second flush of color that lasts for another two weeks. Few plants can boast such a floriferous display. Once the leaves and flowers have been shed, the ornamental bark takes center stage. Long strips of exfoliating brown bark reveal a stunning white inner bark, not unlike Sycamore or Crepe Myrtles in the South.

The Seventh Son Flower is hardy throughout zone 5, not picky as to soil types other than overly wet areas, and there are no known pest or disease problems. Full sun to part shade is preferred. My favorite use for this is in front of conifers which make a perfect backdrop for the showy flowers and bark. To me the Seventh Son Flower is a first rate small tree that should be planted more.
1. Tell us about yourself.
My husband, Deke, and I continue to work full time. We have three grown children and seven grandchildren (four of them are adults already). We live outside of Perry on 8½ acres (for over 26 years). We live on a major highway (highway 141) and have a windbreak at the highway. People driving into the property cannot believe what we have back there, because it is almost impossible to view from the highway. Many of our visitors have commented about our beautiful mini arboretum.

2. What do you do as a volunteer at the arboretum?
When I volunteer at the Iowa Arboretum, I mostly volunteer in the gift shop. I also volunteer for special events and help with the pancake breakfast and other events. In August I volunteer a few shifts in the booth at the Iowa State Fair. I occasionally help the wedding coordinator with weddings.

3. What do you enjoy about volunteering?
It is fun to meet and talk to visitors from across the state and from many other parts of the country. Also, when there is a wedding, it is enjoyable to see the excitement of the couple, family, and guests.

4. What is your favorite feature?
The Iowa Arboretum is such a beautiful place to visit throughout the year as there is outside interest for every season. The Iowa Arboretum is just a beautiful place to be and the birds are also fun to observe.

5. Why would you recommend others volunteer at the arboretum?
I would recommend the arboretum because of its beauty. Volunteers have a chance to work with the kind, friendly, and helpful staff. Volunteering gives you the opportunity to meet new friends, see someone come for a visit that you would never expect to see and have a sense of accomplishment from giving your time to a worthy cause. There are also great opportunities to attend educational and fun functions at the Iowa Arboretum.

6. Other Comments?
You do not have to be an avid gardener or know anything about gardening to enjoy visiting or volunteering at the arboretum. When I wear my Iowa Arboretum shirt out in the community, people come up to me and ask me questions. I tell them about the arboretum, the programs being offered, and the benefits of membership. I am an ambassador for the Iowa Arboretum.

Change YOUR life and volunteer at the Arboretum.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

JAMIE BEYER has a Master’s Degree in Fish and Wildlife Biology, is a Lifetime Master Gardener and is founder and Past-President of the Central Iowa Water Garden Association. He has a broad background of fisheries, water dynamics, horticulture plus aquatic, and wildlife ecology. Water gardening has been Jamie’s passion for over 50 years and he has worked on 1,000+ ponds. He personally has several very large ponds and water features, exhibiting many kinds of water plants and fish. Jamie has written over a dozen magazine articles on the subject of water gardening and the book “All About Garden Pools and Fountains.” He is frequently a guest speaker traveling all over Iowa and the Midwest. He owns a consulting/installation business, Midwest Waterscapes. Jamie has been an Iowa Arboretum member for over 20 years.

DOUGLAS C. GUSTAFSON is a retired Boone general practice veterinarian who received his degree from Iowa State University. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Boone Bank and Trust, Harris Vaccines Inc. and serves as Chairman of the Board of the Ames National Corporation. He is a member of the Iowa Veterinary Medicine Association and is a member of Kiwanis. He is a hobby farmer who manages his agricultural interests. Other hobbies include antique cars and working with horses.

STEVEN H. BUSH is a Certified Public Accountant and insurance agent in West Des Moines and manager of farmland in Ida County. Steve has a degree from University of Northern Iowa. He is a longtime member of the Iowa Arboretum and the Des Moines Men’s Garden Club of which he is an officer. He is also a member of Gardeners of America and has been national treasurer. Gardening and bicycling are his main hobbies.

BOB SHAW lives in Des Moines and is a graduate of the University of Iowa College of Medicine. He spent most of his professional career working at Blank Children’s Hospital and currently serves on their board. He is a Polk County Master Gardener, a board member with Planned Parenthood of the Heartland and a board member with the Des Moines Area Religious Council. He is also involved with Family Promise of Greater Des Moines, an organization working with homeless families with children. He served on the boards of the Children & Families of Iowa and the Des Moines Symphony. Bob’s hobbies include gardening, music, and golf.
Second Saturday Morning Education Series with Joe McNally

Meet every month on the second Saturday for this fun and educational program taught by the Arboretum’s own Horticulture Project Manager Joe McNally. This annual spring series was well attended last year and we are expecting full classes again. Sign up early so you can reserve a seat.

March 8 – Joe’s Top Ten Trees and Shrubs and Water-wise Gardening - Joe will feature the latest and greatest trees and shrubs for the Iowa Garden. Also learn the techniques to water-wise gardening. (9 a.m. - 11 a.m.)

April 12 – Organic Vegetable Gardening - Joe will share his tips for growing a successful organic vegetable garden including discussion on composting and worm bins. (9 a.m. - 11 a.m.)

Fee: $10 per session for members and $15 per session for non-members.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

ALL ABOUT BLUEBIRDS
Saturday, March 1, 2014 • 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. • Hughes Education Center

Some of the best bluebird trackers in the state, Marlene and Bruce Ehresman, will lead this family class. Come find out what makes bluebirds keep coming back each spring. We’ll talk about all kinds of bluebird behaviors—migration, scouting, nesting, feeding, fledging, and back to migration. Learn what you can do to support these beautiful birds as their habitat continues to shrink. Every family will assemble and take home a bluebird nesting box.

Marlene and Bruce Ehresman have been working for wildlife protection and rehabilitation for over four decades. Marlene is the Executive Director of the Iowa Wildlife Center and Bruce is a wildlife biologist for the Iowa DNR. They are the recipients of the 2012 Olav Smedal Conservation Award for excellence in conservation. If you have not yet met this wonderful Ames couple, you are in for a real treat on March 1.

SOIL AND COMPOST – DOWN IN THE DIRT
Saturday, April 5, 2014 • 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. • Cafferty Building

Who knows what the ground will look like in April? Will it be covered with snow, ice, mud, or the first greens of spring? Whatever it is, we will dig through it to discover the life underneath. Come learn about the Earth’s nutrient cycle, composting, and the tiny but essential creatures underground that make it all happen. Everyone will take home a worm composting starter kit. Nan Bonfils, Arboretum staffer, will co-teach with Rebekka Brown.

Fees for Family Classes: $10 per family (members) and $15 per family (non-members)

For more information or to register: 515-795-3216 or www.iowaarboretum.org.
If the harsh winter has got you screaming “No Mas” (No More)! Then the early blooming Cornus mas might be a welcoming sign that spring is really around the corner. This easy-to-grow and cold-hardy dogwood, also called Cornelian Cherry, is a wonderful small tree with bright cheery yellow blooms in late winter or very early spring before the foliage emerges. The Cornelian Cherry can be grown as a multi-trunk large shrub or single trunk small tree, which makes it perfect for any garden. It is slow growing to a mature size of 15 to 20 feet tall and 10 to 12 feet wide, allowing this gem to be tucked in just about anywhere. Cornus mas does well in full sun to part-shade and is tolerant of poor soil, just make sure the soil has good drainage. This is truly a versatile plant, I have even seen it planted as a hedge and it is perfect for growing under power lines. The long history of this plant even goes back to Biblical times where shepherds used the strong durable wood to make their herding staffs. The fruit is very high in vitamin C and has been used in Eastern European medicine to fight colds and flu for hundreds of years.

The late winter blossoms are not its only attribute; the bright red grape-sized fruit creates a dramatic display from mid-summer into fall. The fruit is a favorite source of food for birds and if you can beat the birds to it, the fruit makes delicious jams and jellies. In addition to the colorful fruit and dark green foliage, the exfoliating bark and plump pink and yellow tinged flower buds add another dimension to this durable plant.

There are several cultivars to choose from, in addition to the species, that produce more abundant flowers, yellow fruit or have variegated leaves. ‘Golden Glory’ is one of those heavy blooming forms that are more common as well as the yellow fruiting cultivar ‘Flava.’ The cultivar ‘Variegata’ is a little more difficult to source, but this prized part-shade-loving plant is sure to be the envy of neighbors and fellow garden club members. The leaves of ‘Variegata’ have a dark green center with a cream-colored edge, and with the red fruit in the fall it is spectacular.

We have a very nice specimen of Cornus mas ‘Golden Glory’ that was planted at the Iowa Arboretum in the spring of 1982. Come visit the Iowa Arboretum and observe this beautiful plant in all of its glory. The tree is along the walkway between the Hughes Education Center and Cafferty Building.

**COLLECTIONS CORNER**

Ann Hutchins, Iowa Arboretum Board member, was asked what draws her to the Arboretum.

The trees draw me to the Iowa Arboretum as well as the people who share the same enthusiasm for trees as I do. This is followed by the unique peacefulness and serenity the arboretum has to offer. I feel a deep kinship to trees; they present practical value by providing wood, shelter, food, shade, and the obvious beauty of the seasons and tree forms. But trees have a spiritual element that goes beyond beauty – an interpretation of human feelings that reflect evolution – trees and the Iowa landscape take us back to days of early man and at the same time give a vision of the future. At the Iowa Arboretum, I can see and feel this through the tree collections and the preserved woodland and prairies.
CyBIZLab - Iowa State University constructed a survey to gather information toward the development and implementation of a Master Plan. The survey will gauge the needs and wants of the public before the Iowa Arboretum begins the Master Plan Process.
IOWA ARBORIST ASSOCIATION

The Iowa Arborist Association held their Service Day at the Iowa Arboretum in October. Twenty members trimmed trees, removed trees and mulched around trees.

A special thank you to the group!
SAVE THE DATE

GARDEN TOUR * SEPTEMBER 3, 2014

Travel on a luxury motor coach to two special gardens in Minnesota this summer. First stop is Noerenberg Memorial Park and Gardens, featuring a wide variety of unusual annuals, perennials, grasses and daylilies. Next stop is the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, (a garden much requested by our tour travelers over the years), with 1,100 acres of gardens and woodlands. The package fare, including transportation, garden admissions and driver tip, is $110 per person. To sign up call 515.795.3216 or visit www.iowaarboretum.org.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK

Sharing Our Passion for Trees, Plants and Nature with All of Iowa

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
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SPRING PLANT SALE
Saturday, May 3 • TBA
Sunday, May 4 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Iowa Arboretum’s Annual Spring Plant Sale. Find unique and interesting plants for your Iowa garden.

NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY
Friday, May 9
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
This national event is designed to raise awareness about the role America’s public gardens play in promoting environmental stewardship. Visit the Iowa Arboretum and the other public gardens in Central Iowa. The Brenton Arboretum, Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, Better Homes and Gardens Test Garden and Reiman Gardens – Iowa State University.

CLASSIC CAR DAY
Sunday, June 8
12 noon - 3 p.m.
Car Registration (free): 10 a.m. - 12 noon
12 noon to 3 p.m. - Bring your car or your camera and enjoy an afternoon admiring some of Iowa’s best-loved cars. Classic tunes will help set the mood and lunch will be available for purchase. Free event.