SPRING FEver symposium

Speaker: Bob Fincham
Topic: Dwarf Conifers
Saturday, April 18 • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Topics: Dwarf Conifers for Small Gardens (morning session) and Conifers that Enhance the Garden (afternoon session).

Born, raised, and educated on the East Coast, Bob was a science teacher for over 40 years. His interest in and passion for conifers began in 1974 when he traded a fern fossil for three choice conifers to landscape his new home. In 1979 his passion led to the start of a part-time, mail order nursery business named Coenosium Gardens.

In 1986 Bob agreed to move to Oregon to become vice president of Iseli Nursery. Ten days before he was to move, Jean Iseli, owner of Iseli Nursery and a dear friend of Bob, passed away from a heart attack. In spite of this turn of events, Bob and his wife Dianne, along with 10,000 plants, moved from Pennsylvania to the Northwest, where he made the nursery business his full time job. In 1993 he returned to teaching in the state of Washington. In 1996 he and Dianne made their permanent home in Eatonville, Washington, where they continued selling plants through Coenosium Gardens while maintaining two acres of rare and unusual conifers in a pinetum surrounding their home. His wife, best friend and business partner, Dianne, passed away in the summer of 2013.

In 1999 he was invited to present a paper at the Fourth International Conifer Convention held in England. He was the only presenter not associated with a botanical garden or academic institution.

Always the educator, Bob has written for the American Nurseryman, the NARGS Quarterly, Fine Gardening, and the American Conifer Society Bulletin; he has produced three videos on conifers and propagation methods and has written three books: Small Conifers for Small Gardens, Dianne, and Paradise Lost an Angel. He is currently working on his second conifer book and third in his series on Dianne.

One of the co-founders of the American Conifer Society, Bob served as its first President for five years. He is considered around the world to be one of the great experts on rare and unusual conifers. We are very excited to have him as our speaker for the 6th annual Spring Fever Symposium. Written by Pam Maurer.

Early Bird: $50 for members, $60 for non-members (before 4/3/15)
After April 3: $60 for members, $70 for non-members

To register call 515.795.3216 or visit www.iowaarboretum.org
MY FAVORITE TREE | NYSSA SYLVATICA — BLACK TUPELO

By Emma Hanigan

As an urban forester it is difficult to have one favorite tree. I often cycle through favorites, and to be at the top a tree must have a few unique characteristics, which include: fall color, structure, or leaf shape. Additionally, favorites cannot be popular. With increasing tree pests, disease issues, storm events, and changes in climate, species selection is becoming limited. With that said, one of the best ways to prepare for an unknown future is to have many different varieties of trees so that if host trees are lost we can maintain canopy cover and the many benefits trees provide.

For my wedding in 2013 my husband gave me one of the best gifts, the opportunity to plant my new favorite tree here at the Iowa Arboretum, black gum. Black gum (black tupelo) is not very popular but still can be found or ordered at some nurseries. It has a unique pyramidal shape, glossy leaves and magnificent bright orange to scarlet fall color. It is a great wildlife food source and nutrition for bees. I hope you are able to visit and admire the beauty of our wedding tree.

Emma is the State Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. She is responsible for the statewide Community Forestry Program, providing technical assistance to all 99 counties. Her work as a coordinator includes education and training to city staff, tree boards, volunteers and others interested in managing the public tree resource. Additionally, she assists with tree inventories, urban forest management plans, mitigation planning for invasive species, updating tree ordinances, and planting selection for underserved communities. She is an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist and Certified Public Manager®. Emma graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry with an emphasis in Urban and Community Forestry from Iowa State University.

Pictures provided by Molly Fifield-Murray * University of Wisconsin — Madison Arboretum & Justin Evertson — Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
1. Tell us about yourself (family, work, connection to the arboretum)?
I live in Eden Prairie, MN with my wife, April, and our three amazing kids Brecken (5), Madiana (3), and our newest addition Gretchen (4 mo). The kids keep us busy with their various activities and with three little ones there is never a dull moment. I am working at MTS Systems where I am a Manager of Internal Audit and my wife spends her days as an ESL teacher in Bloomington. We both grew up in Iowa, where we still have a lot of family and friends, so we come back and visit as often as we can. My connection to the Arboretum is through my Grandfather (Roger R. Clouter) who was a Board Member from 1986-1991 when he passed away too early. Seeing how much the Arboretum meant to him is what sparked my early interest and it means the world to me that I am able to share in his passion through my volunteer work.

2. Why do you like to volunteer for the Arboretum and what do you do?
I enjoy volunteering at the Arboretum because I truly believe in their vision and only wish I lived closer to help out in a face-to-face capacity. After I left college, I realized that my interest in technology could be the way that I continued to show my appreciation/support for the Arboretum. At that time, I purchased the domain (IowaArboretum.org) as well as the space used to host what is now still the current site today after almost 11 years. My original goal was to give the Arboretum an online platform to distribute/share information about what was going on and how people could get involved.

3. What is your favorite feature at the Arboretum?
Honestly, it has been awhile since I have been back to the Arboretum. However, I still to this day remember walking around the Arboretum as a child and just remembering it was so peaceful and interesting to see all of the various types of plants. The last couple of times I have gone, I selfishly always walk over to the Founders Grove first and then search for a specific bench on the grounds. I am also drawn to the conifers on the grounds as it was another one of my Grandfather’s passions. In fact, my Grandmother (Gertrude) still owns the G & R Christmas tree farm he started back in 1976 and has been a wonderful family gathering point.

4. Why would you recommend others to volunteer at the Arboretum?
I think volunteering in general is always a great way to give back to causes you appreciate and want to continue to support. Specifically, if you are passionate about trees, plants, and being outdoors then there is no better place to volunteer than the Arboretum.

Change YOUR life and volunteer at the Arboretum.

The 29th annual National Philanthropy Day held on November 14th in Des Moines recognized Board member Dr. Robert Shaw and his wife, Dr. Rebecca Shaw, as outstanding volunteer fundraisers. Their commitment to the community and to inspire others to contribute to the community has been significant. One of their nominators said “Bob and Becky bring quintessential volunteer qualities to each task: passion, commitment, dependability, integrity, graciousness, and they are endearing to every person they encounter.” A great honor for two community-minded people.
COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Synergy, the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations to produce a combined effect that is greater than the sum of their separate effects.

In January, Boone County Historical Society and the Iowa Arboretum decided to join forces to work together on the Run for the Trees 5k run and 1 mile family walk. Each organization combining their talent and resources to benefit both organizations.

The Run for the Trees is scheduled for April 25 with all participants receiving a tree seedling when they cross the finish line. The 5k race will wind along woodland and prairie trails. There will be other activities that morning as part of the Arbor Day Celebration.

A special thank you to committee members Troy Thompson, Susan Souhrada, Pam Schwartz and Mark Schneider.

Come run with us!
Habitat A Hot Topic in Central Iowa

Joe McNally – Horticulture Project Manager

Habitat is a hot topic in Central Iowa as we realize the importance of biodiversity to the health of our beautiful native lands. When European settlers arrived in Iowa it was covered by prairie, palustrine wetlands, Oak savannah and forested river bottoms teeming with wildlife. Iowa has 52 animal and 64 plant species that are considered endangered; much of this is due to loss of habitat.

What is wildlife habitat? Habitat is described as the features in an area that allow a wildlife species to survive, and hopefully thrive. There are several characteristics in these areas that are required for wildlife to live. Adequate food, as well as the right type, is probably the most important characteristic that allows wildlife to settle into an area and call it home. Having available structure and materials to provide shelter is next on the list. Who wouldn’t want a roof over their head while having dinner? Access to water is also essential for wildlife to survive in a habitat. Enough space to exercise natural behaviors and find all of these building blocks of habitat is something that is often overlooked. Saving one tree in the field or a thin strip of wildflowers along a roadside just isn’t enough. Wildlife habitat is lost when land is cleared, polluted or otherwise altered and any one of the necessities is eliminated. The diversity of habitat is critical to the survival of many plants and animals. The great thing is that we can all pitch in and save, or even create, habitat for the creatures that call Iowa home.

One of the most valuable resources we have at the Iowa Arboretum is diverse habitat. The two palustrine wetlands, also called prairie potholes, at the Iowa Arboretum are teeming with wildlife. Visit in May to hear thousands of frogs sing on spring evenings or watch the hungry Kingfisher dive in for a meal. If you are lucky you might catch a glimpse of the large snapping turtle, nicknamed Filbert, as he lumbers around the pond. This habitat supports creatures of all shapes and sizes. Iowa was once dotted with thousands of these shallow prairie wetlands and we are fortunate to have two of them on the grounds.

The Woodland Trail system at the Arboretum is an excellent place to experience all of the diverse natural habitats of Iowa. One of my favorite places to stop and take in this beauty is in the stand of Quaking Aspen on the Overlook Trail. Whether it’s their rustling golden leaves in the fall or the gleaming white bark against the blue winter sky, they are spectacular. Take yourself back to the time of settlers while standing next to majestic Oaks estimated to be over 100 years old, and imagine the habitat they have provided over their lifetime.

Winter is a great time to visit and view all of the “actors” in the snowy wonderland theatre of habitat at the Iowa Arboretum. Put on your winter boots, or snowshoes, and visit the Nut Tree collection and enjoy the entertaining Eastern Fox Squirrels as they try to find their buried treasures in the snow. If you get to the Arboretum at dawn and have great timing, or luck, one can see the Red Fox that runs the fence line leaving winding tracks in the snow. If the warm indoors is more your speed, bring a sack lunch and join us at the wall of windows looking out over the dozens of bird feeders teaming with feathered friends. Bird watching is the fastest growing hobby in the United States, so grab your bird book and count how many species of birds call the habitat at the Iowa Arboretum home.

If you are interested in creating habitat for wildlife in your garden be sure to add the Iowa Arboretum Spring Plant Sale, on May 2 and 3, to your calendar. “Providing for Pollinators and People” is the theme of the sale. You’re sure to please the wildlife in the garden, and your home, with the habitat you create.
Saturday Morning Series with Joe McNally • Pruning 303
Saturday, March 21 • 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. • Hughes Education Center
This class will be a hands on continuation of last year’s Pruning Basics 101 and 202. We will briefly go over what was covered in 101 and 202 and then comes the fun part. We will be out on the Arboretum grounds, barring below freezing temperatures, with our pruners in hand. Flowering tree and shade tree pruning techniques will be covered in the tree canopy, so dress for the weather and bring your hand pruners and loppers.

Fee: $10 for members and $15 for non-members

Garden Hose Wreath Workshop
Sunday, March 29 • 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Put a smile on your spring outlook with this make-and-take experience. Guided by floral designer, Sandy Gossman, and Arboretum staff, Nan Bonfils, you’ll take home a decorative piece that will brighten the change of season. All materials provided, fresh as well as recycled, for the wreath plus other smaller projects. You just have to bring your imagination. This class will be fun for all ages. Bring the kids.
Walk-ins welcome but please pre-register to guarantee ample materials.

Fee: $10 for members and $15 for non-members

For more information or to register call 515.795.3216 or visit www.iowaarboretum.org.
## DONATIONS, NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

**OCTOBER 1, 2014 TO JANUARY 31, 2015**

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- Boone Bank & Trust Company
- Boone Garden Club
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- Marshall County Master Gardeners
- Wilken Welding

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- Randy Elder in Memory of Robert Dyes

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