ARBORETUM | MARCH – APRIL 2016

ARBORETUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH – APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND SEASONAL CRAFT
Saturday, March 12
9 a.m. – 12 noon
The arboretum’s own Kevin Lantz and family members will be making mouthwatering pancakes. Educator Nan Bonfils will have a table for making a fun children’s craft.
Come hungry & leave full.
$8 per person (children 5 and younger – free)

ITALIAN NIGHT
Friday, March 25
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
It’s Italian night sponsored by Barilla. Enjoy spaghetti, sauce and all the fixings. Chris Hudnall from Snus Hill Winery will talk at 6 p.m. about wines that complement Italian food.
Mangia!
$7 per person

MAPLE SYRUP CELEBRATION
Saturday, April 9
8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Taste real maple syrup and learn about the art and science of maple syrup production. See timber sport demonstrations, educational displays and enjoy a pancake breakfast prepared by Iowa State University Forestry Honor Society Xi Sigma Pi members.
Pancake Breakfast. All you can eat.
$8 for adults and $5 for children

RUN FOR THE TREES – 5K, 1-MILE FAMILY FUN RUN/WALK
Saturday, April 23
8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION
Saturday, April 23
10 a.m. – 12 noon

IOWA ARBORETUM RUN FOR THE TREES

5K Run/ Walk | Family Walk 1 Mi
April 23, 2016

Proceeds to benefit IOWA ARBORETUM DOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For more information:
www.iowarborretum.org
515-795-3216
1875 Peach Street, Madrid, IA
Register at:
www.getmeregistered.com 5K at 9:00 a.m. & 1 Mi. at 9:30 a.m.
Arbor Day activities after the race!

FREE TREE SEEDLINGS

CELEBRATE TREES! Free trees will be given away and a special tree planting ceremony is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Children are invited to put on a harness and helmet and climb a tree (guided by Iowa Arborist Association members). Look for educational demonstrations, activities and a special appearance by Smokey Bear.
THE CONNECTION

Mark Schneider – Executive Director
We have all met individuals who have had a positive impact on our community, our organization and others. Their stories are fascinating and legacies enduring. When they spoke, people listened. They were genuine, trusted, and had tremendous character. They followed through with their commitments and took time to talk, listen and create lasting relationships.

I know my life is better because of the connections shared with these people of integrity and honor. I hope you have had similar experiences.

Their life stories lead us to ask important questions. How do we want to be remembered? What can we do to make a difference in someone’s life? How will this generation impact future generations?

As the New Year moves forward take time to contemplate these questions. Your answers and actions could lead to a better world today and a better world for future generations.

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit. – Nelson Henderson

MY FAVORITE TREE | Carya ovata — SHAGBARK HICKORY

Written by Nan Bonfils – Education Coordinator

A tough old tree, the Shagbark Hickory, is my favorite. I have the great blessing of living next to a Shagbark grove marking the edge of oak savanna. It’s an old stand, to be sure. In good weather you can sometimes sit out on the porch and hear them creak. Summer through autumn there’s a steady drizzle of Shagbark leaflets, dead twigs, fruits and outer husks forming a jumbled carpet below.

Their distinctive craggy bark boldly accents the winter landscape. Their jagged bare limbs crisscross in a network of shelter, perches and escape routes for birds and squirrels. There’s plenty of room under the shags for birds to store seeds collected at our feeders. Naturalists tell me that bats live under the bark strips as well — another habitat gift from the Shagbark.

I find these trees to be quite poetic. Many look to be dancing. There is a particular ancient pair I am fond of, leaning into one another like old friends, creating an archway to the savanna. “Welcome,” they seem to say, “and do not despair of change.”

Enjoy Shagbark Hickories along the pathways on the Arboretum woodland trails and in the he Nut Tree Collection on the main grounds on the main grounds.

Tree Facts:
Native: Most of Iowa
Growth Rate: Moderate
Mature Shape: Straight, cylindrical trunk with a oblong crown of ascending and descending branches.

Height: 70-80 feet
Width: 30-40 feet
Site Requirements: upland, well-drained woodlands.
Flowering Dates: April – June
VOLUNTEER CONNECTION
BELVA WEERS

In 1972 my husband, Stu, and I moved to Boone where we raised two sons, Lee and Neal. We now also enjoy eight grandchildren.

Following my retirement from Iowa State University in 2013, I was able to more actively pursue some of my hobbies. Wintertime seems to be the perfect time for reading and sewing tube dresses for a project through Hope4Women International called, “Dress a Girl Around the World.” Spring gets me outdoors to start working in the flower beds.

In the fall of 2014 I took the Master Gardener class, which led me to volunteer at the Iowa Arboretum. I like the challenge of learning new things and am looking forward to exploring more areas of the Arboretum. Currently, I am working in the gift shop. The majority of the time this winter is spent helping with inventory to get the new sales system set up. The book section, for me, is like being in the candy shop. I look forward to experiencing my first summer as a volunteer and meeting new people.

The Arboretum offers a variety of classes and walking the grounds is a true learning experience. Working with the staff is a pleasure, and I would encourage anyone who is interested in volunteering to do so here.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. ~ HELEN KELLER

Megan Huftalin
Special Events Intern

My name is Megan Huftalin and I am a junior studying Event Management and Entrepreneurship at Iowa State University. I am originally from Osage, a small town in northern Iowa. I am an active member of the Event Management Club on campus. I am very excited to be the special events intern here at the Iowa Arboretum. I hope to gain lots of special events experience and knowledge of event planning and executing during my time here. I am taking a lead role in planning the Run for the Trees event on Arbor Day, and I am looking forward to helping with many other events at the Arboretum this spring.

NEW EMPLOYEE EMILY MCCOLLOCH

Emily started February 15 as the new Event Specialist – Administrative Assistant. She hails from Perry and worked for four years as the Events Coordinator/Graphic Designer for the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce. She has extensive experience in coordinating events, designing promotional materials and producing e-newsletters. She also has experience with social media and websites. Emily majored in graphic design and minored in marketing, communications and management at Upper Iowa University.

PLEASE WELCOME EMILY.
Have you ever wondered where the Honeylocust got its name? If you have ever broken open the long curled seed pods to reveal the sticky substance surrounding the seeds, well that is the honey. Another tree with similar pods is the Kentucky Coffeetree; it contains a similar substance. What is the purpose for this sweet sticky stuff? A better question is who is that “honey” intended to attract and why? You might think birds, squirrels or even raccoons. But what if I told you there is evidence that it was developed in the plant many thousands of years ago to attract mammoth, ground sloth or even relatives of the camel, yes camel. I didn’t know that North America was home to these animals that now live elsewhere in the world or are extinct. I recently read a book that made me look at many of our native trees, and some that used to be native, in a whole new light.

“The Ghosts of Evolution,” by Connie Barlow, is a very interesting title but the subtitle is even more interesting “Nonsensical Fruit, Missing Partners, and Other Ecological Anachronisms.” This title got my plant geek brain wondering “What is a ‘Nonsensical Fruit’ and why are they ‘Missing’ a partner?” It turns out that these seed pods as well as other native fruit are missing the megafauna, large animals from the Pleistocene Era, which developed alongside the plant to eat its fruit. The glaciers not only carved the Des Moines Lobe land mass in central Iowa, but also effectively changed the native animal population. Who would think that the Osage orange, or hedge apple, was meant to be swallowed whole by an animal that could tolerate the toxins in the pulp? The same is true for the toxins in the seed of the Kentucky Coffeetree (Gymnocladus dioicus), Honeylocust (Gleditsia triacanthos), Pawpaw (Asimina triloba) and even the Persimmon (Diospyros virginiana). All of these plants have a range that has been regulated to dispersing their seed by human interaction, hoarding squirrels and the occasional deer. These wild animals, but not humans, have a natural resistance to the toxins but are not the ideal targeted dispersal method. One aspect of this equation is what the seed needs, a good scaring or acid bath that is not reliably done by that pesky squirrel. He is considered a pulp thief, just grabbing the fruit and running to a hiding place to eat the sweet stuff and spit out the seed. But if a ground sloth the size of a VW Beetle pulls the pod, or fruit, out of the tree and swallows it in one gulp the acid bath in its gut works perfectly. This is possibly why the Honeylocust has such a thorny trunk as well, to prevent the wrong animal from climbing the tree and destroying the seedpod. And if he, or she, walks down the path and relieves him/herself then the seed is spread to a new area ready to germinate. Now many of these seed pods and fruit just fall to the ground and rot. The last seed I will talk about is one that even the squirrels will not touch, the Ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba) nut. This one-of-a-kind conifer relative was native to North America until it was almost wiped off the earth except for a small colony in a monastery in China. All of the Ginkgo in our landscape and its many forms originated from this one colony, including all of the different mutations or cultivars. It is suspected that a carrion-eating dinosaur was the target for this stinky fruit. I wish they were still around to clean up the sidewalks in downtown Ames in fall, where unfortunately female Ginkgo were planted many years ago.

The author covers many other interesting plants from around the world and if you have ever wondered why many of the plants in your landscape have such unusual forms I encourage you to read this book. The next time you see one of these trees in your neighbor’s garden imagine the mammoth that might be stopping by for lunch. Or visit the Iowa Arboretum to see all of these tree varieties, just make sure you keep an eye out for the megafauna.
What is going on this time of year at the Iowa Arboretum?

Since I started working at the Iowa Arboretum back in 2012 one of the largest and most important jobs has been to inventory all the trees, shrubs and perennials on the grounds. This inventory, or census, is a critical part of “Sharing Our Passion for Trees, Plants and Nature with All of Iowa.” This census includes updating our computer records and improving plant labels, many of which were incomplete or missing altogether. There is a lot of work and behind-the-scene information gathering that is involved with the identification details for each plant, or accession, out on the grounds. This data collection includes sifting through 3x5 notecards from 1970s, typed binders, handwritten planting logs and maps from the 1980s and 90s. As well as utilizing one of the most valuable resources I have, my coworker Kevin’s memory. His career of 30+ years at the Iowa Arboretum has been one of my best resources for the success of this project. I also could not have done this without some tech-savvy volunteers who helped modify our inventory system and record plant data.

As I have systematically moved across the grounds identifying, sorting through historical records and making new labels for the trees, I have had the pleasure of getting to know every tree, shrub and perennial in my path. Along the way I feel I have gotten to know the founders, donors and families who have invested in Iowa’s oldest arboretum through memorials and honorariums. Our history shows how we acquired plants and the dedication of Iowans to get this gem in Central Iowa growing. From members collecting seeds and cuttings from gardens to roadsides, and with many donations from nurseries all over the U.S. we have an amazing plant collection worth bragging about. To date, we have engraved over 300 plant labels and updated the data for over 400 accessions just to give you an idea of how many trees were in need of updating. There are still many to go as the snow has put a damper on things from time to time. If this sounds like fun and you are interested in volunteering to help complete this project we could always use a hand and who knows, you might find yourself in the shade of your new favorite tree.

I encourage you to come out in spring and get acquainted with the plants for yourself and take in this wonderful collection. Don’t forget to tell your friends and neighbors about the improvements at the Iowa Arboretum and encourage them to visit.
ALL ABOUT BLUEBIRDS
Saturday, March 5 • 9 a.m. — 11 a.m.  (Hughes Education Center)

One of the most conscientious bluebird trackers in the state, Karl Jungbluth, will lead this class. Come find out what makes bluebirds keep coming back each spring. Or did they stick around this winter? What do they like to eat? He will talk about all kinds of bluebird behaviors — migration, scouting, nesting, feeding, fledging, and back to migration. Get an update on the Arboretum’s bluebird trail. Learn what you can do to support these beautiful birds as their habitat continues to shrink. Karl will guide us in discovering the best design features among many bluebird houses on the market. You will take home the plans for building your own bluebird box. We will also have bluebird houses for sale in the Arboretum gift shop and have one for a door prize.

Karl gardens with wildlife around his rural Boone home. He is retired from the National Weather Service and is President Emeritus of the Iowa Audubon Society.

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

YOGA, COCOA & CRAFTS — HIBERNATION FINALE
Sunday, March 6 • 1 p.m. — 3 p.m. (Hughes Education Center)

Come for a family friendly afternoon, designed by Nan Bonfils, to combine elements of both winter and spring. We start with yoga that is just right for everyone. Even beginners and grown ups — with or without kids — can enjoy this chance to stretch, bend, twist and relax while barking like a dog or breathing like a lion. Next it’s winter cocoa and spring snacks. We’ll finish up with a make-and-take craft to put in your yard or garden. Welcome Spring!

This class is designed for kids age 4+. An adult must accompany every child.

Fee: $10 per family (member) $15 per family (non-member)

SUNDAY SKETCHERS
Sunday, March 13 • 1 p.m. — 3 p.m. (Hughes Education Center)

Carla Boekelman and Richard Parker lead this studio experience. Participants bring all their own supplies. All levels of experience are welcome – even beginners. This studio experience is for high school age and older.

Fee: $10 members $15 non-members

APPLE GRAFTING
Sunday, March 13 • 1 p.m. — 3 p.m. (Cafferty Building)

We are delighted to offer you an afternoon with Dan Bussey, the orchard manager from Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah, Iowa. Learn how to graft and care for apple trees. He will discuss the history of the apple and apple propagation. You will be able to take home three grafted trees to begin your very own orchard. This is a hands-on experience with all materials provided. Joe McNally, Horticulture Project Manager for the Iowa Arboretum, will assist Dan Bussey. If you have questions about the class please contact Joe at joe@iowarboretum.org or 515-795-3216.

Please pre-register. We have a maximum enrollment so registration is only being taken by phone at 515-795-3216. We ask that you pay when you make your reservation.

Fee: $35 for members $40 for non-members

SPRING INTO BLOOMS — Paper Flowers For All Ages
Sunday, March 20 • 1 p.m. — 3 p.m.  (Hughes Education Center)

The calendar says this is the first day of spring, but the weather may be telling us otherwise. Let’s cheer on spring with paper blossoms ‘til the real ones emerge. This is definitely a hands-on class. You will learn to make a variety of paper flowers from super simple to gently challenging. We will use repurposed as well as higher-end materials. Everything will be supplied, except we will ask you to bring along scissors. You will take home a colorful bouquet with seasonal accents. Nan Bonfils and Sandy Gossman are co-leaders.

Children as young as grade two can participate, but an adult must accompany every child. Grownups without youngsters are also welcome.

Fee: $15 per family (member) $20 per family (non-member)

BUILD YOUR OWN WILLOW TRELLIS
Saturday, March 26 • 9 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.  (Cafferty Building)

Pam and Ryk Weiss from Flock 9 Studio in Ogden will be at the Arboretum to guide you in building your own willow trellis. They are providing ALL the materials along with their construction expertise and imaginative designer spirit. This is a rare opportunity for you to build something very durable and special for your garden with professional and inspirational help every step of the way. All you have to do is bring an open mind and these tools: sharp anvil (vs. bypass) pruning shears, small hammer, and wire cutters. Optionally, you may bring interesting objects to attach to your trellis (rake, hubcap, metal, etc.).

Fee: $55 for member $60 for non-members

REGISTER TODAY! SPRING FEVER SYMPOSIUM – KEVIN VAUGHN
Saturday, April 2 • 10 a.m. — 3 p.m.

Morning Talk: “Not Your Grandmother’s Iris”

Iris have been a staple of the perennial garden for years. However, many gardeners are unaware of the tremendous variety of irises available. They may be grown in almost every garden situation from dry and sunny to wet and shaded. Plants can range in height from 2” to 6’. In this program, Kevin will describe his efforts to create new hybrids from various types of irises and you will get to see some of the newest hybrids that will reach the market in a year or two plus some of Kevin’s favorites. After this talk, you will be adding some of these beauties to your garden in the near future.

There will be irises and other unique plants for sale during the symposium. Lunch is included in the symposium price.

EARLY BIRD: $50 for members (before 3/18) • $60 for non-members (before 3/18)
AFTER MARCH 18: $60 for members • $70 for non-members

Afternoon Talk: “Hybridizer on the Loose”

Have you ever wondered how new plants are created? In this talk, Kevin will describe how he has developed the hundreds of new varieties he has introduced to the market as well as some new projects that have yet to see the market. Included in this talk are recent developments in daffodils, Sempervivum, Pulmonaria, daylilies and several other surprise genera. You are guaranteed to be awed by some of these developments and add many things to your want lists.

Fee: $35 for members $40 for non-members

Please pre-register. We have a minimum and a maximum enrollment so we are only taking registration by phone 515-795-3216. We ask that you pay when you make your reservation. If we do not meet minimum enrollment we will cancel the workshop on March 21.

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AFTER MARCH 18: $60 for members • $70 for non-members
Significant Gifts
Dean & Adela Bowden
Virginia Denisen
Dan & Dee Droper
Doug & Ann Gustafson
Herman & Helen Kopitzke
Toni Kroze
Donald & Dorothy Lewis
Pleasant Valley Garden Center
Raswell & Elizabeth Gast Foundation
Russ O’Harra Hosta Society
Mark Schneider & Phyllis Friedman
Robert & Rebecca Shaw
Mark Schneider & Phyllis Friedman

DONATIONS, NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS
NOVEMBER 1, 2015 TO JANUARY 31, 2016

Renewed Memberships
Individual & Family
Barbara Olson
Nancy Ross
Carlo Sailer
Harold & Virginia Vance
B. Joan White

Renewed Memberships
Institutions
The Christmas Tree Farm
Strautman Tree Farm
Quilted Gardens & Nursery
Murphy’s Walnut Hill Nursery
Enchanted Valley Tree Farm
Earl May Nursery
Dutch Oven Bakery, Boone
Dutch Oven Bakery, Boone
Enchanted Valley Tree Farm

Supporting Members
Bob & Libby Angelici
Paul & Rhia Dennis
Jan Ehrig

Donated Goods & Services
Dennis & Pat Hansell
Dee Williams
Dave Wilken
Pat & Krista Sheehan
Arleen Sweet
Arthur Tellin
Tracy & Ruth Thompson

BoGO – Buy One and Gift One
Renew your membership and buy a gift membership at half price.

Introduce someone new to the Arboretum.
A great birthday, anniversary or graduation present.
BEAUTIFUL IN ALL SEASONS
Expires 2/1/17
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.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK

SAVE THE DATE
IOWA ARBORETUM
Garden Social & Auction

The arboretum’s major “fun” raiser event featuring tasty delights, auction and plant sale
Friday, May 13
5 p.m.

SPRING PLANT SALE
Saturday & Sunday – May 14 & 15
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.