Community Connection: 

The Raising of a Schoolhouse

Like an Amish barn raising, Boy Scout Ben Robertson from Madrid gathered his family and friends together to build the newest feature at the arboretum. The one-room schoolhouse playhouse located in the Children’s Garden, was completed in May as an Eagle Scout project. The schoolhouse was designed by former arboretum Horticulture Project Manager Joe McNally.

Today, children and their families play inside the schoolhouse with its authentic school desks, blackboard and working school bell. A sign outside the schoolhouse tells the historical story of the one-room schoolhouse in Iowa. Other features in the area include a green roof dog house and a rain barrel collection system. The schoolhouse is a fun and educational destination for visitors.

The schoolhouse project was funded by Monsanto.

Stepping out

This spring two boy scouts along with their families and friends tackled the Herrick Trail step project. Gabe Carney from Ames and Jaden Wright from Jefferson worked independently on different sections of the trail replacing deteriorated steps that were installed 35 years ago. Gabe and Jaden were working toward completing their requirements to become Eagle Scouts.

Thanks to these three dedicated scouts for improving the grounds.
When a person loves trees, picking just one as a favorite can be a challenge, but the Japanese Red Pine—Pinus densiflora—wins it for me hands down! Japan is famous for three pine species—black, white and red—which can be found not only in Japan, but also in Korea, China and the U.S. as well as other countries. It is usually found in gardens as a dwarfed tree and at times in bonsai displays.

Throughout its history it has been coveted for its wood and used in pottery kilns due to its ability to burn at extremely hot temperatures. However, its use in the construction industry has been popular throughout the centuries for its durability as well as its surprising strength given how lightweight it feels. Its timber was used for centuries in religious temples and shrines throughout the Far East.

The specimen found at the Iowa Arboretum caught my attention and heart the moment I saw it! Up close its bark is an orange-brown color, but from a distance can appear to be red, thus its name. The bark appears to be in “sheets” which is unusual in itself. As the tree ages, the bark can appear to be more shaggy and silver-gray in color. It’s needles are a soft dark green in bunches of two up to 12” long. The branches form an air of elegance from being “upswept” and in tiers. The pollen cones appear in early spring and are conical shaped with an orange-yellow color. At the same time small seed cones appear in singles or clusters and are yellow to purple in color. The winged seeds are approximately ½ inch long. A big eye catcher for me are the multiple trunks of this species, which make it a favorite by designers of gardens and arboretums.

Come to the Iowa Arboretum and walk the paths through the tree collections and see if you too develop a “yen” for this tree species! The Japanese Red Pine—beautiful and captivating in all seasons!
DOUG BRIGHTMAN:

I was blessed with a rewarding elementary teaching career. 34 of my 39 years of teaching were for the Ft. Dodge Community School District. In 2010, the District offered an attractive early retirement option. I took it and began a new chapter in my life. Retirement has given me new opportunities. I joined the Ft. Dodge Area Gardeners, became a Master Gardener, and began volunteering at the Blanden Memorial Art Museum.

Currently, my wife is a GED instructor at Iowa Central Community College. She also was an elementary teacher and taught 23 years at St. Paul Lutheran School in Ft. Dodge. JoEllen and I have two grown children. Tracy is a doctor of physical therapy and assistant director of clinical education for Des Moines University in Des Moines, IA. Brian is an optometrist and president/CEO for EyeCare Specialties in Lincoln, NE. We are blessed with five grandchildren.

Since April 2014, I have worked in the greenhouse planting perennials and helping with the annual plant sales. Also, I have done general maintenance of the perennial beds, some transplanting, but mostly weeding, and weeding, and weeding.

Volunteering at the arboretum provides me with an enriching environment to continue developing my lifelong interest in gardening. The arboretum is a relaxing oasis filled with the beauty of nature. As a master gardener, working at the arboretum provides me with opportunities to earn volunteer hours.

I enjoy relaxing under the pavilion and viewing all the surrounding perennial beds. The natural beauty found at the arboretum and the warm, friendly atmosphere created by the staff and volunteers makes volunteering very rewarding.

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

LINDA GRIEVE

It’s been an exciting time to become the new president of the board! New projects, people volunteering to become board members, and a very faithful board who spend a lot of their time volunteering in many different ways. Thank you for electing me as your board president.

I want to share with all of you a project planned for this fall. Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association (INLA) is going to spend their service day here at the arboretum on September 7! Students from Kirkwood Community College, DMACC and ISU will all be here along with members of the INLA board to work on several landscape projects. Shawna Moss from Kirkwood will have her students design the entry sign bed. Jim Mason from DMACC will have his students design a pathway through the children’s vegetable garden to the one-room schoolhouse. I will work on plantings around the schoolhouse and dog house. Hughes Nursery is donating three 6’ white pines to be planted to screen the service area from the Children’s Garden. Additionally, students will rebuild the cedar tunnel. ISU will provide lunch for the students, and INLA will provide morning snacks. INLA is also contributing funds to help defray costs of the materials and plants needed to finish these projects. Country Landscapes is donating the limestone outcroppings for the entry sign bed. Take a look at these areas now, and then come back after September 7 to see the differences. If you’d like to volunteer to be part of this project, please contact Mark at info@iowaarboretum.org.

If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life. ~ AUTHOR UNKNOWN
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

POLLINATORS – CATCH THE BUZZ

Stephanie Shepherd, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, Iowa DNR, will lead a discussion about pollinators, their habits, habitat and importance. One out of every three bites of food we eat relies on pollinators, mostly insects, to reproduce. Unfortunately, bees (colony and solitary), butterflies and moths, bats, birds and beetles are facing challenges due to habitat loss, disease, parasites and pesticides. Stephanie will share her knowledge and tips for helping pollinators in our backyards and gardens. She will emphasize diversification, use of native plant material, and landscape varieties. She will share many resources and guide a walk through arboretum gardens pointing out best practices and reviewing plant identification.

Fee: $10 per family members • $15 per family non-members

PRESSED FLOWER PROJECTS – CREATE A BOOKMARK

Our presenter, Susan Siev, takes inspiration from the natural world of birds and plants—most especially flowers. Here’s an opportunity for you to learn about pressed flowers from her. What flowers are best for pressing? When is it best to collect them? What equipment is needed? What are some elements of design to consider? Susan will show you how to combine pressed flowers with paper crafts so you can keep some of summer all year long. You will make a bookmark to take home and you will leave with ideas for additional projects. Some may become gifts to give away. The glory of this class is that Susan has already collected and pressed all the flowers. You don’t need to bring anything except tweezers.

Susan is a Master Gardener Intern and Iowa Arboretum volunteer.

Fee: $10 members • $15 non-members

GIVING VOICE TO YOUR SENSE OF PLACE — A WRITING WORKSHOP

This writing experience mixes direct instruction with playful experimentation. It’s for beginners, journal jotters, author wannabes and anyone curious about how the writing process unfolds. We’ll start by exploring the Iowa Arboretum and finding words to convey a sense of place. Along the way, Nan Bonfils will give you prompts for jumpstarting your writing and strategies for propelling it. You will not be obliged to share your writing although you will be welcome to do so. You will leave with three pieces for your portfolio and inspiration for more.

The workshop is designed for adults. Students of high school age can also enroll. Please dress to spend time outdoors and bring a chair for sitting outside.

Nan is our Education Coordinator. She co-directed and taught at the East Asia Writing Project.

Fee: $10 per member • $15 per non-member

GARDENING WITH WILDLIFE

Do the deer munch your hostas? Do chipmunks sabotage your landscaping? Rabbits, raccoons, moles, groundhogs and squirrels, just to name a few, can all make gardening perilous. But there are ways to successfully coexist with the creatures in our backyards and farms. Jim Pease, Associate Professor Emeritus ISU, will talk about some principles of gardening with wildlife in mind. He says you must recognize the invaders, identify the damage they are doing, learn about the animal, and change the circumstances of the habitat. These changes might include exclusion, scare tactics, repellents, or removal. Come get the details from a man with four decades of experience. Bring your questions.

Fee: $10 per member • $15 per non-member

WOOF WALK

What do trees and dogs have in common? Bark if you know the answer. It’s our first ever WOOF WALK—a fun afternoon for canines and the people who love them. Bring your dog for a little socializing with others as you walk a trail of dog riddles that are sure to make you smile. No dog, no problem. You will still get exercise, meet new people, and grin. Refreshments, light-hearted contests, ECO Weave participation, and small door prizes await you. Nan Bonfils and Tobey are our hosts.

Logo artwork: bringfido.com

Fee: Free for members • $5 for non-members

BATS IN TRANSITION TO WINTER

After lots of Halloween teasing about bats, Marlene Ehresman, Executive Director of the Iowa Wildlife Center, brings us the scientific perspective. Really, who are these creatures? What are their contributions, needs and challenges in an ecosystem dominated by people? How can we coexist sustainably? Family friendly for sure, and yes, there will be bats!

Fee: $10 per family members • $15 per family non-members

FAMILY FRIENDLY CLASS

(Children can participate and appreciate the content)
ECO Weave in Bloom – Collaborative Garden Art with a Sustainability Message

By Nan Bonfils, Education Coordinator

Approach the ECO Weave display near the Arboretum’s Children’s Garden on a sunny day and you will be struck by waves of vivid color. From a distance it appears to be a wall of flowers. Get closer and focus on the materials—not petals—plastic. Investigate the details. Recycled plastic strips from feed sacks are interwoven—over, under, over, under—over and over again.

It’s called ECO Weave for two reasons. The ECO is shorthand for ecology and the weave refers to the loom of green repurposed garden fence. Between May and August over 200 youngsters, grades kindergarten through six, participated. Each child created a 12-inch-square then donated it to the Arboretum. Staff and volunteers interwove the squares to create vibrant murals. It’s collaborative garden art.

The sustainability message developed alongside the art. Initially youngsters examined intact feed sacks to determine their original use. Then we exchanged ideas about secondary purposes for the now empty sacks. Globally aware students usually suggest recycling. But the plastic in these sacks cannot be recycled. It can only be repurposed. ECO weave sacks detour the landfill to become public art.

Finding a worthwhile, low cost project that everyone can do is tricky. But ECO weave succeeds on all counts. We plan to extend the ECO weave project through the fall season as school field trips come our way. Meanwhile, we continue to invite families and guests of all ages to participate. (See class listing for November 20 and December 4.)

This has definitely been a community effort. Thank you to my agrarian neighbors for letting me raid their barns for sacks and the Luther Livewires 4-H Club for donating dozens more.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

SAVE THE DATE

FALL FLORALS WITH SANDY GOSSMAN
Sunday, November 6 • 1pm – 3pm

ECO WEAVE FALL FINALE
Sunday, November 20 any time between 1pm and 3pm

WATERSHED PHOTO EXHIBIT
At Iowa Arboretum
Sunday, October 2 – 9, 2016

Opening reception Sunday, October 2 from 1-3pm Hughes Educational Center

“River Stories: Views from an Iowa Watershed,” a community photo exhibit is coming to the Iowa Arboretum. The exhibit was created by a group of six area women landowners this spring. Courtney Tournis, Chris Henning, Jan Kaiser, Danielle Wirth, Patti Edwardson, and Colleen Radebaugh documented their experiences in the watershed through photographs and short narratives, or “photostories.”

The Arboretum will host an opening reception on Sunday, October 2 from 1 — 3pm in the Hughes Education Center. The event is free. The storyboards will remain on exhibit for one week. The Hughes Education Center is open weekdays, 9am – 4pm; Saturdays 10am – 4pm; Sundays noon – 4pm.

River Stories is co-sponsored by Women, Food and Agriculture Network and the Raccoon River Watershed Association. The project is possible thanks to funding from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University.

On Saturday, October 8, The Foundation for the Boone Area Humane Society will hold its annual “Paws in the Park” 5K run/walk. You are welcome to come with or without your four-legged friend on a healthy 5K run/walk on behalf of the Foundation through the beautiful Iowa Arboretum.

Registration forms are available at the shelter, 228 W. 16th St. in Boone or you can register at getmeregistered.com. https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=124227

Registration and packet pickup begins at 7:30am in the Cafferty building at the Iowa Arboretum. This event will take place rain or shine.

Why Pre register? When you preregister for classes you enable the arboretum to bring you our best content, generous hospitality, and adequate supplies. Instructors like to know how many people to expect so they can prepare accordingly. We like to welcome walk-ins but we cannot guarantee space or materials for them. And, if we have to cancel a class, we can only contact those who have registered in advance. Thank you for helping us bring you the best.
Leslie Leavenworth - Artist
ECO Weave Kids
Classic Car Day
Classic Car Day
Run for the Trees
Volunteer - Dave Oliveira
Allan Beck Family - Tree planting
New playhouse
ECO Weave family
Run for the Trees
Volunteers - Ann Malven and Jan Moore
4-H Volunteers

AT THE IOWA ARBORETUM
THE NEXT 50 YEARS

The Iowa Arboretum turns 50 years old in 2018—a tremendous accomplishment for the oldest arboretum in the state. But still, many people think the Iowa Arboretum is supported by the state. The Iowa Arboretum is a stand-alone 501(c) (3) organization that relies on contributions, grants, fundraising events, rentals, gift shop sales and other funding streams to support its mission.

Here are a few ways you can help contribute:

• Sponsor an event or class.
• Buy a membership for a family member or friend.
• Make a donation to honor loved ones or friends.
• Purchase a brick, bench, tree, shrub or medallion to honor a family member or friend.
• Include the arboretum as a beneficiary on an insurance policy.
• Contribute to the arboretum’s endowment funds.
• Give a gift of grain.
• Include the arboretum in your estate plan.

Encourage others to visit and join and let’s keep the arboretum thriving for the next 50 years.

DONATIONS, NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS APRIL 1 TO JULY 18, 2016

Significant Gifts
Ruby Beck
Lenita Cartens Estate
Fred Maytag Family Foundation
Modern Woodmen Of America
Sine Family Foundation
Monetary Gifts
Nadine Beck
Book Shoppe
Boone Area Chamber Of Commerce
Boone Lion’s Club
Gabe Carney
Debbie Carter
Kathy Geoffroy
Grings Environmental Strategies
Highland Park Garden Club
Kirlie Linney
Madrid Garden Club
Helena McNabb
Midland Power Cooperative
Moravia Garden Club
Nerem & Associates
Judy Paulay
Leslie & Ann Raisch
Rubarbak Chiropractic Clinic
Mark Schneider & Phyllis Friedman
Keith Thornton
Xi Sigma Pi
New Members
Benjamin Allen & Peggy Fields
Jon & Mary Jo Banwart
Mike & Deb Billingsley
June Burkhart
Joyce Camowale
Diane Curnan
Boy & Denise Ely
Farm Bureau Financial Services - Madrid
John Geske
Bob & Linda Gomez
David & Joanne Hammer
Jill Hansen
Stacy Huntzicker
Jerry & Sue Jensen
Daniel Lichtenberg
Judy McCasky
Michael & Mary McCollough
Mark & Rachel McKinney
Robert McNair
Melinda Jenkins Moore
Thomas Muhlenbruch
Nicole Nelson
Gayle Olson
Harold & Dawn Phipps
Jeanne Rippere
Robin Sassman
Benette Sherman
Eli & Katie Stines
Garth & Susan Van Horn
James & Gwen Wolter
Renewed Memberships
Individuals & Family
Memberships
Duane Anderson
Claudio Baldwin
William Becker
Joyce Bimi
Richard Black
Carla Boekelman & Richard Parker
Launie Brandenburg
Sue Rutledge Brenton
Michael Brothers
Bruce & Mary Brown
Mary Buck
George Burnet
Joyce & Pat Murphy Carlson
Robert Q. Christiansen
Robert & Cheryl Clark
Warren & Carol Claussens
Nancy Davis
Vicki Delong
Lavon Doherty
John Doran
Steve Duffy
John Emerson
Marilyn Erickson
Margaret Evans
Richard & Carolyn Finnestad
Mary Lou Fisher
Jane Flanagan
Paula Flynn
William Frazier
Cindy Friedrichsen
Judith Garber
Robert & Rhonda Getschman
Rod & Penny Gittens
Jim & Nancy Grabau
Wil & Marjorie Graves
Thomas Gust
Barbara Hanoi
Lisa Hamson
Joan Hart
Bill & Lynn Hayes
Laurent & Linda Hodges
Chuck & Helen Hoeven
Catherine Huisman
Paul Hunter
William & Fay Hunter
Ann Hutchins
James & Denise Timberland
Steve & Suz Trusty
Carol & Evelyn Varley
Craig & Sandra Wales
Ruth A Walker
Caroline Walter
Janine Winck
Maureen Wilt
Bruce Wright
Supporting Members
Gary & Carol Carlson
Bob & Jean Digmann
Don & Wilma Lesan
Bill Lusher & Ellen Fairchild
Marshalltown Garden Club
Mark & Catherine Martens
Helena McNabb
Don Sievers
Linda A Smith
Doug & Vicki Van Dyke
Patron Members
Joseph Clay
Robert & Cynthia Cramer
Fort Dodge Area Gardeners
Madonna & Terry Frisch
Jeff & Peggy Johnson
David & Peggy Moody
Jim Petersen
Fellow Member
Daniel & Diane Cloutier
Tom Healy
Herman & Helen Kozitzke
Teda Towne
Organization Members
Boone Garden Club
Des Moines Founders
Garden Club
Greater Des Moines Garden Club
On With Life Recreational Therapy
Russ O’Harra Hosta Society
Memorials/Honorsarium
Ashley Brown in memory of Scott Nichols
Gerald & Sara Chase in memory of Scott Nichols
Dwayne A. Connell
Donated Goods & Services
Ames Greenhouse and Floral
Ames Silversmithing, Karen & Gary Youngberg
Blank Park Zoo
Non Bonfils
Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad
Boone News Republican
Braunschwieg Pottery, Connie Braunschwieg
Breake’s Town & Country, Mel Breake
Cananer’s Greenhouse, Kyle Cananer
Central Iowa Water Garden Association
Chicago Bears
Chicago Cubs
Cicotti Art Glass, Art Cicotti
Core Wellness Massage, Megan Walker
Country Landscapes, Renee Sparrt
Dutch Oven Bakery, Terri VanHemert
Earl May
Evergreen Gardens, Pam Mauger
Flying Frog Farms
Foster’s Inc, Mark Miller
Garden Therapy
Goode Greenhouses
Green Bay Packers
Hickory Park
Hill Top Greenhouses
Hy-Vee
In the Country Garden & Gifts, Sue & Josh Speese
Iowa City Landscapes
Iowa Cubs
Isabel Bloom LLC, Kim Snyder
JAX Outdoor Gear
Joe McNally
Just My Stuff, Catherine Huisman
Kansas City Royals
Kat’s Garden/Gary Huard Photography, Kathleen & Gary Huard
Klemm’s Song Sparrow
Kobernuz, Lisa
La Nia
Lasting Beauty Landscape, Jeff Rathje
Lincoln View Farm, Nancy Briggs
Luther Livewires 4-H Club
Mid-National Graphics
Midwest Watacopes, Jamie Beyer
Millter Nursery, Jeff Westphal
Minnesota Vikings
Our Iowa Magazine
Pella Nursery
Perrin Gardens, Linda Grieve
Pete Teikope Photography
Pine Ridge Greenhouse, Dave Lauritzen
Pizza Ranch
Pleasant Valley Garden Center, Aleda Feuerbach
Prairie Moon Winery
Quilted Gardens, Barry Lows & Larry Skellenger
Randy Schnebbel Welding Studio
Red Granite Farms
Reiman Gardens
Rindy Tree & Turf, Ed Kinderspecher
Sigler Printing
Snus Hill Winery
Sigler Tree & Turf, Ed Kinderspecher
Snus Hill Winery
Wendy Goodenough
Wishing Well
Wing & Things
Wing & Things
Wing & Things
IOWA ARBORETUM, INCORPORATED
OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The 2016 annual meeting of the members of Iowa Arboretum Incorporated will be at the Arboretum at 1875 Peach Avenue, Madrid, Iowa, on Thursday, November 3, 2016. Registration will begin at 1pm. The meeting will begin at 1:15pm to take action on the following matters:

1. Reports of officers, directors, and committees.
2. Election of Board of Director Members.
3. Election of Endowment Fund Committee Members.
4. Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

Members are urged to attend this meeting and hear reports of the officers and participate in the election of the Board of Director Members and other activities of your Arboretum.

This notice dated at Madrid, Iowa, this 20th day of July 2016.

Herman Kopitzke, Secretary

SAVE THE DATE
FALL PLANT SALE
PEONY AND IRIS SALE
Saturday, September 10 – 9am to 4pm
Sunday, September 11 – 9am to 4pm