MEET SPRING FEVER SYMPOSIUM SPEAKER

NATE BREMER • Saturday, April 1st at 10 a.m.

By Lois Girton

We welcome Nate Bremer as our 2017 speaker. Nate owns and operates Solaris Farms located near Green Bay, Wisconsin. He grows and hybridizes daylilies and herbaceous and tree peonies, designating those with the best hardiness, flower production, foliage, and plant form as “Top Northern Tier.” Look for these in his online catalog at www.solarisfarms.com.

Like several of our previous speakers, Nate began hybridizing plants at a very early age. His first hybridizing experience was with orchids. He studied plant sciences and education in college and became a high school science teacher. This profession allowed him summers to begin hybridizing garden plants. He originally focused on daylily hybridizing, registering his first cultivars with the American Hemerocallis Society (AHS) in 2003. Since then he has registered 204 daylilies; except for a few early introductions these are all tetraploids. Nate finds beauty in all forms and colors but some of his most spectacular introductions are those with strongly contrasting eye zones. Daylilies were not in bloom when I visited Solaris Farms, but of his AHS registrations (seen at http://www.daylilies.org/DaylilyDB/), ‘Bromance’ (2014) stood out for me. With thousands of cultivars already registered, finding a unique name for your new daylily can be a challenge. Some of Nate’s have political connotations such as ‘Tax and Spend’ and ‘Pork Barrel Spending.’ Nate continues to hybridize and introduce daylilies.

Some years ago through a mutual friend, Nate became acquainted with peony hybridizer Bill Seidl who was winding down his breeding program. Nate took over propagation, registration, and introduction of Bill Seidl’s herbaceous and tree peonies and soon began his own hybridizing program. Nate focuses on advanced generation hybrids with goals of producing plants with fully doubled flowers and novel colors supported by strong stems. Although cold hardiness is not a problem for herbaceous peonies, many tree peonies lack stem hardiness and die back to the ground in northern climates. Nate is working to produce cultivars better suited to the Midwest and plants with more outward-facing flowers. Some of his plants include Paeonia rockii in their parentage, a species that few previous hybridizers have used, to provide better hardiness, dark flares at the center of the flower, and more stem strength. ‘Angel Emily’ and ‘Captain Kate’ (both Seidl/Bremer, 2013) are perhaps the best-known introductions to date. Nate’s garden was in peak peony bloom when Kris Jurik and I visited during the American Peony Society tours in 2016 and there were dozens of worthy seedlings on display. Nate registered the first tree peonies from his own breeding program in 2016 and is certainly at the forefront of active peony breeders. Watch for more incredible plants from him over the next few years. You can read an interview with Nate on Adriana Feng’s website http://www.southernpeony.com/.

We are fortunate to have Nate share his knowledge of selecting, planting, and maintaining great daylilies and peonies with us. Nate has also generously donated Paeonia rockii seedlings ‘Angel Emily’ X ‘Yin Zhuang sug uo’ (Range of Snow Mountains) as gift plants for each symposium attendee. All will be different, but each will be spectacular!

Register online at www.iowaarboretum.org or call 515.795.3216
THE CONNECTION

Mark Schneider – Executive Director

I am often asked — What is an arboretum? Many people ride by our highway signs not knowing what we are. Are we a tree farm, tree museum, tree zoo or outdoor park?

What we are is a public garden devoted to displaying trees, shrubs and other plants that can be grown in the Iowa landscape. But we are much, much more…

We are an educational resource offering a variety of programs relating to plants and other topical topics. We are a cultural destination for people interested in the arts and activities relating to the mind and body. We offer social events for people to meet and connect with others in the community. We are a spiritual place where people come to get centered and families celebrate life events. We are a place where you can walk your dog, sit under a tree to see the light filtering through the leaves or hear the sounds of nature. We are a site where you can observe the changing seasons, rain drops on leaves or honey bees collecting nectar and pollen. The Arboretum is a place where you can leave your watch and cell phone in your car and experience something that is special and unique.

What will the Arboretum be in the future? Our vision is to be a vibrant destination for learning, social activities and cultural opportunities for the community, and the state of Iowa. We will advocate for trees, native ecosystems and conservation issues. We will continue to be a partner and resource to schools, businesses and organizations. We will be the green space for people to grow, be healthy and experience the outdoors.

What is next for the Arboretum? We will finish the master plan process with Confluence this year, which will guide us as we make important decision about our future. I look forward to sharing the plan with you.

MY FAVORITE SHRUB | Corylus americana | American Hazelnut

Written by Jeff Jensen

Hazelnuts are my favorite shrub because they are native to Iowa, produce a nut high in oil that is almost identical to olive oil, provide a nice fall color, and taste great! First, a distinction, most folks are familiar with the large thin-shelled hazelnuts found in holiday nut mixes; these are not from Iowa. Those large nuts come from the European hazelnut (Corylus avellana) grown as trees in Oregon. The bush type American hazelnut, and its hybrid crosses, do best here in the Midwest. They are smaller nuts with slightly thicker shells and the same great flavor.

In fact, some chefs and candy makers prefer the smaller sized nuts for candies and dishes they create. Humans aren’t the only creatures that love hazelnuts. Nut thieves like squirrels, raccoons, and blue jays show up almost like clockwork the last few days of August before the harvest starts.

Jeff Jensen is a little bit nutty. President of the Iowa Nut Growers Association, he also grows hazelnuts on his farm in Northern Kossuth County. A passionate advocate for agroforestry and clean water, Jeff is active with several grower organizations and sustainable agriculture groups in Iowa and the Midwest, and a Program Manager with the non-profit Trees Forever.

BUSH FACTS

Native: Statewide
Site requirements: Full sun or partial shade with well-drained upland sites
Height: 8-14 ft.
Width: 3-6 ft. (does sucker)

Plant: in groups of 2-3 to ensure cross-pollination
Protection: Protect from rabbits with a fence
Fall Color: from gold to purple to orange and red, a wide variety of fall colors
Produces: clusters of nuts encased in a fleshy husk
Duane Kent is a former Aurelia Community School District high school mathematics teacher and principal. He finished his education career serving as a mathematics/science consultant and assistant educational services director at Western Hills AEA. Duane did not give up teaching after retirement. He continues to teach and share his knowledge of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennial plants through the Iowa State Extension Service Master Gardener program. Duane has received awards for his work with natural resource conservation and was selected in 2014 with his wife Lucille as Aurelia’s Citizens of the Year. Duane and Lucille live in Aurelia, have two grown children and eight grandchildren. Please welcome Duane.

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.

~ AUDREY HEPBURN

VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

LINDA SHARPNACK

Tell us about yourself: My husband, Tom, and I live on a farm near Huxley where we raised 3 children and have 6 grandchildren who are frequent visitors. When I retired from teaching, I took the Master Gardening class and became a member of the Iowa Butterfly Survey Network.

Why did you start volunteering at the Arboretum? Two of my friends invited me to help them pull weeds at the Arboretum. How could I say no to such an offer! In addition to working outside and doing a weekly butterfly survey I have helped with the Arboretum events including Halloween and Spud Night.

What is your favorite part in the Arboretum? Thanks to the new plantings in the butterfly garden, I am able to record more butterflies each week. I also love to watch the bird feeding stations. I enjoy the peaceful feeling I get when I walk the grounds.

Why would you recommend that people volunteer at the Arboretum? I have been volunteering here for less than a year. The staff and other volunteers have been very welcoming and helpful. I learn something every time I come. If you enjoy working indoors or outside there seems to be a place for everyone to help and to make new friends. I am looking forward to this spring when my friends and I hope to adopt a garden at the Arboretum. The time I spend here makes a positive difference and is fun.

RUN FOR THE TREES

SATURDAY, APRIL 29
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Join the Iowa Arboretum and the Boone County Historical Society for a beautiful scenic 5K or 1 mile. Family Walk/Run on well-maintained trails. What could be a better spring location to enjoy the outdoors and celebrate Arbor Day? A fun variety of Arbor Day activities will follow the race!

To register go to www.getmeregistered.com

Arbor Day Celebration

SATURDAY, APRIL 29 • 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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 special appearance by Smokey Bear.
A board member recently approached me about an article she read on whether new cultivar releases are actually better selections, or just a great marketing tool for nurseries and plant companies. Emails regarding new plant introductions seem to flood my mailbox this time of year. Subject lines with words like “SNEAK PEEK” or “BREEDER BREAKTHROUGH” achieve their enticement goals. My own family members look forward to reading and folding over pages of the latest and greatest nursery or seed catalog at the beginning of the year. But underneath all the fanfare of colorful pictures, animated descriptions, and enticing subject lines, we need to ask ourselves the important question: what makes a new release better than their counterparts? How can we as gardeners read between the lines to decide which selections are truly improved?

On a horticultural standpoint, aesthetics carry greater importance to plant breeding than improved yield or nutritional quality with food or grain crops. Ornamental plant breeders release new varieties that exhibit new colors, morphological features such as height, width, or shape, or resistance to the latest biotic (diseases and insect pests) and other abiotic (salt, drought, heat, cold) stresses in the environment. While it is not a “one size fits all” breeding purpose, it is important to note the special characteristics behind a breeding program and evaluate their relevance.

I think to really understand the relevancy of incorporating new plant releases into your landscape we need to define some terms. Often listed in single quotation marks, cultivars are plant breeding products selected and collected by humans. Cultivars may originate as hybrids of two plants or mutations from the natural environment. Because they are mutations, obtaining true-to-type clones is only possible through vegetative propagation methods of cuttings, grafting, and tissue culture. Cultivars derived from seed may only retain the characteristics of the parent for one generation, thus, failing to stay true to form in years following. Look in reference pages of your nursery or seed catalog. Does the company identify what propagation method. If you are looking for new releases that are adaptable to biotic and abiotic stresses, refer to the propagation method. If you are looking for interesting color with true-to-type lineage, refer to the propagation method. If you are looking for new releases that are adaptable to biotic and abiotic stresses, refer to the species and listed resistance and/or tolerance. If all of this sounds too complicated and you would like someone else to do the homework for you, mark your calendars for the Iowa Arboretum’s Spring Plant Sale, May 6th and 7th. You won’t be disappointed.

The moral of the story is this: be educated, think about why a particular cultivar has been released into the commercial industry. If your sole purpose of obtaining a new plant is to specifically add color to your garden, then the sky is the limit. If you are searching for a more manageable Russian sage (Perovskia atriplicifolia), then look for the size requirements. If you are looking for interesting color with true-to-type lineage, refer to the propagation method. If you are looking for new releases that are adaptable to biotic and abiotic stresses, refer to the species and listed resistance and/or tolerance. If all of this sounds too complicated and you would like someone else to do the homework for you, mark your calendars for the Iowa Arboretum’s Spring Plant Sale, May 6th and 7th. You won’t be disappointed.

SOURCES:

My name is Alyse Kjormoe and I am a senior majoring in Event Management at Iowa State University. I grew up in Eldora, which is a small town in the middle of Iowa. I’ve lived on a farm my whole life so being around nature at the Arboretum makes it feel like home. I am excited to see what this spring brings for me with new experiences and learning. I am eager to be working with Emily planning the Run for Trees event on Arbor Day and helping with the many other events this spring. I am hoping to gain the knowledge and experience that will help me in my career after college.
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

APPLE GRAFTING
Sunday, March 12, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Cafferty Building)

We are pleased to offer an afternoon with Dan Bussey, orchard manager from Seed Savers Exchange, Decorah, Iowa. Propagation techniques have evolved over the years, but as Dan will demonstrate, the whip-and-tongue graft is the most favored by fruit tree professionals. A truly hands-on experience, you will learn how to graft like the professionals do in this two-hour session. All materials are provided. Either begin your very own orchard or add variety to an existing one with apple scions sourced from Seed Savers Exchange, the Horticulture Research Station with Iowa State University, and the Iowa Arboretum. Each registered participant will be able to take three grafts home. Leah Worth, Horticulture Project Manager for the Iowa Arboretum, will assist with the workshop. If you have questions, please contact Leah at leah@iowaarboretum.org.

There is a maximum enrollment, so we ask you to pre-register by calling 515-795-3216. Payment is required at the time of registration.

$35 students | $40 members | $45 non-members

BOTANICAL QUILTS

Art exhibit created by Diane Muse, a regional artist with roots just up the road
Hughes Education Center Foyer
Opening Reception with Diane • Sunday, April 2, 2017 from 1:00–3:00 p.m.
The exhibit will remain open through Sunday, April 23rd.
Viewing hours are
Weekends 12:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.; Weekdays 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
No charge. Open to the public.

ORNAMENTAL GARDEN GLASS REVISITED
Sunday, April 9, 2016 • 1:00–3:00 p.m. Cafferty Building

Many people are discovering creative projects on sites like Pinterest. That’s fun but sometimes what you need is a little coaching from experienced artists and suggestions from fellow crafters. So think of this class as a Pinterest party. Everyone brings their ideas, imagination, and materials they’d like to work with. (Yes, it’s time to clean the cupboards and hit the garage sales.) Failed attempts and success stories in garden glass are also welcome. We will supply guidance from Sandy Gossman, professional flower designer, glue, some simple repurposed dishware, beads, and wire. Sandy will show the basic principles and best practices through several examples. Then it’s hands-on, and we will see what happens.

CAUTION: We will be using glue that sets best with 24 hours to dry. So, if possible, we recommend that you leave your pieces at the Arboretum to dry and pick them up later. Otherwise we will help you pack up your pieces for the road as best we can.

$10 members | $15 non-members
Family friendly activity. Children can participate and appreciate the content.

SAVE THE DATE! WOOF WALK BringFido
Sunday, May 7, 2016 any time between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.
Hughes Education Center

CUT THE RIBBON
Please join us for the Arboretum festivities set for Sunday, April 23 from 1:00–3:00 p.m. in the afternoon. We will salute some outstanding projects with an official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and assorted small celebrations. Definitely family friendly!

We will be honoring the one-room schoolhouse replica and several book exchange boxes. They were created as Eagle Scout projects. Currently the book boxes are empty, but that will all change April 23.

We will start at the Hughes Educational Center and walk to the Cafferty Building. There will be stops along the way for books, puppets, poetry, and ribbon cuttings. Snacks and souvenirs await us in the Cafferty Building.

Come learn how the “take a book—leave a book” boxes work. Find out how you can participate, even from a distance. Join me in greeting spring and celebrating these projects.

They underscore important fundamentals of Arboretum educational program. First is raising environmental literacy. Their distinct locations on our grounds will courage exploration of our beautiful site and their delightful designs will ignite curiosity.

Thank you and let me know if you would like to help.

Nan Bonfils
Education Coordinator

This event is free and open to the public. Rain or shine, so dress for the weather. If you need a motorized cart, please let us know in advance. Your RSVP will help us plan for refreshments.
SIGNIFICANT GIFTS
Dean & Adele Bowden
Roger & Kim Cellier
Virginia Denisen
Don & Dee Draper
Dave & Linda Grieve
Doug & Ann Gustafson
William Hess
Wayne & Norma Koos
Herman & Helen Kopitzke
Tony Krapohl
Erling D Larson
Leonard A. Good Trust
Donald & Dorothy Lewis
Pleasant Valley Garden Center
Mark Schneider & Phyllis Friedman
Robert & Rebecca Shaw
Dale Siems
Story County Master Gardeners Association
Andrew & Marilyn Varley

MONEY GIFTS
Earl & Doris Benjamin
Richard & Phyllis Brennan
Gary Burton
Steven Bush
Carrie Campbell
Richard & Sonya Carlson
Margaret Chamberlin
Earl Chichester
Roger & Janice Cloutier
Mae Cooer
Bob & Jean Digmann
Jan Ehrg
Randy Euler
Jake & Darla Ewałt
Charlotte Feddersen
Colene Ferrin
Jane Flanagan
Pauly Flynn
Cindy Friedrichsen
Amy Garrett
Robert & Rhonda Gatchman
Jack & Lois Gritz
Chuck & Sally Good
Brian & Sandy Gossman
Tom Healy
Sandra Hereroma
Gary & Kathleen Hoard
Robert & Kathleen Houge
John & Hillary Hughes
Ted & Susan Hutchison
Jeff Iles
Ed & Leanna Jacobson
B. Jean Johnson
Sandra Amidon
John & Marilyn Jordan
Richard & Kate Jordan
Don & Sally Kent
Kingsley Home & Fed. Garden Club
Steve & Connie Kruck
Brenda Kruze
Lynn Kuhn

NEW MEMBERSHIPS
Dave & Kathy Law
Barry Laws & Larry Skel linger
Luther Live Wires 4-H
Curtis & Joyce Maddux
Jeff & Bobbie Miles
Modern Woodmen Of America
Conservative
Janice Nelson
Gene & JoAnn Neven
Gary & Sue Oehler
Bob & Deb Owens
John & Cynthia Paschen
Janelle Patterson
Pella Garden Club
Steve Price
Coleen Radebaugh
Maxine Redeker
Dr. Eileen M. Robb
Jan Scharnngren
Jim & Tim Schneider
Linda Sharpnack
David & Susan Siev
Leroy & Joan Siegmund
Steiner & Mary Anne Silence
Linda Smith
John Snedden
Al & Jo Ann Sorenson
Eric & Susan Southrada
John & Kathy Strohl
Sunshine Garden Club
Doug & Vicky Van Dyke
Vision Bank Iowa
Phil & Alberta Voge
Philip V排毒
Beth Wilson
Woodland Hills Garden Club

RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS
Dixie Bjurstrom
Sarah Cadly
Glenda Camelin
Janis Corderman & Alan McCollum
Dorothy Dakin
Jan & Cornelia Flora
John Hannah
Jan Hart
Eloen Hartstack
John Hawkins
Nicole & Steve Jonas
Dave & Leanne Kelker
Cindi ( Larson) Leal
C. Eric Pike
Duane & Helen Schwarz
Dr. Ken Wayne
Diane Welch
Sherree Wolf
Len & Mary Wood

McDonald
Lois Barnes
Kelli Bennett
Julia Berg
Julienne Bramer
Terry & Chris Branstad
Margaret Broerman
Robert & Nancy Briggs
Doug & Joellen Brightman
Carole Bunde
Steve & Julie Butcher
Lorie Caner
Norman & Beth Cheville
Sandra Christman
Roger & Mary Ann Christensen
Dorothy Cooper
John & Carolyn Cox
Dawn DeCleene
Linda Deese
Tom Devoe
Don & Mary Jo Frazier
Erika Gage
Gail Gage
Kim & Jeanne Gaylord
Cindy & Joel Gilman
Benjamin
John & Kathy Evers
Charlie Feddersen
Kerry & Alesia Ferendach
Brookn Farm
Bob & Mary Jo Frazier
Ted & Deanna Garwood
Sam & Tina Germer
Mike & Ann Denise
Arnold Geske
Mark & Winnie Gleason
Hans Goepplinger
Brian & Sandy Gossman
Carl & Marcene Grant
Doug & Ann Gustafson
Brent Gustason
Doug Harr
David & Judy Hauser
Mary Hawthorne
H. William & Ilainda Heigen
Larry & Sharon Helm
Karen Heringer
Lyle & Gloria Herold
Gary & Sally Hoard
Robert & Coraile Hoenke
Ted & Susan Hutchison
Sharon & Peter Moore Jenkins
Donna Johnson
Larry & Jan Jorgensen
Leone Junck
Barb Kahler
Janelle Kaminjen
Joanne Kanelle
Pete & Barbara Krumhardt
Liz Kurt
Lynette Lantz
Lucille Larson
Don & Linda Lau
Michael & Marie Leat
Mary Lee
Stephen & Debra Lindner
Nancy Ludvig
James & Erica Macbeth
Ed & Julie Christian Malen
Ann Malven
Jerry & Sunny Marker
Jennifer Martin
George & Mary Maybee
James McCasley
Barbara J McCune
James & Dione Mcclory
Karine McLaunghin
Wayne & Pam Messer
Jeff & Bobbie Miles
John & Kathryn Miller
Chris & Krista Mofitt
Russ & Holly Moore
Dr. John & Judy Murphy
John & Christine
David Oliveira & Mary Teresa Fallon
Nancy Ostrem
Janelle Patterson
Doug & Janice Pedersen
Chris Perrin & Becky Voas
Philip & Jeanine Pfister
Heather Pohl
Sue Porsch
Steve Price
Alex & Kathy Ramirez
Kevin & Jean Rhodes
Betty L Richter
Nancy Ricks
Richard & Karen Ross
Ruth Ryan
Paul Sacks
Lori Salati
Harold Schick
Janet Schultz
Misty Schwesio
Clyde & Kay Seery
Carla Seler
Mary Smoller
Paul R. Sharp
Pat & Krista Sheehan
Scott & Paula Shriver
Steiner & Mary Anne Silence
Inez Smith
Kathy Soldo-Matemach
Archie & Sheri Steenhard
Travis Stevenson
Cecil Stweir
Carolyn Tashorn
Margaret Taurb & Mindy Brightman
Arthur Tellin
Leora Thomas
Troy & Ruth Thompson
Jim & Becky Turbes
Dave Utrata
Geneneeh Van Horn
Alan & Donna VanDeeha
John & Marlys Wassenas
Beverly West
Marlyn Weigel
Rita Weinberg
B. Joan White
Linn Jann Wilberg
Mr & Mrs Rarel Wilkinson
Dee Williams
Daryl & Sally Winter
Leonard & Georgine Woodruff
Jim Work

March – April 2017 7
**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**

**Garden Social & Auction**

The Arboretum’s major “fun” raiser event featuring tasty delights, auction and plant sale

**FRIDAY, MAY 5 • 5 p.m.**

**SPRING PLANT SALE**

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY – MAY 6 & 7 • 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Hear local expert Matthew Bailey speak about Heucheras on May 6 at 10 am in the Hughes Education Building

**NEW INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

This is the perfect time to join the Iowa Arboretum! The Arboretum will be holding a Spring Membership Drive April 1 – May 7 with a $10 discount offered on Individual and Family memberships. To make joining even easier, there will be a membership table set up for the Spring Symposium, Maple Syrup Celebration, Arbor Day, and the Spring Plant Sale. And, as an added bonus, a free plant will be given to new members who join at the Spring Plant Sale! This promotion is for new members only.

The Iowa Arboretum is offering an exciting, new incentive program for current members to introduce someone new to the Arboretum. For each new membership a current member brings in, the current member will be entered into a drawing to win a pendulum sculpture like the one pictured. This incentive program begins March 1, 2017 and will run through February 28, 2018 with the drawing taking place March 1, 2018.