IOWA ARBORETUM

FRIDAY, MAY 5 • 5:00 pm

Theme: COLOR IN THE GARDEN
Plant Sale: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Appetizers, Dinner & Silent Auction: 5:00 pm
Live Auction: 6:30 pm

It is time to attend the gardening social event of the year. Whether it is to connect with friends, enjoy delicious food or sip wine, the Arboretum’s Garden Social has it all! As many of you know, event ticket holders have the first chance at purchasing the best plants at the spring plant sale (Saturday and Sunday for the general public). Leah Worth, Horticulture Project Manager for the Arboretum, will have the most sought-after plants fitting this year’s theme of Color in the Garden. We are honored to have three celebrities at the social. Yes – three! Josh and Sue Spece from Independence are owners of In the Country Garden and Gifts and are dynamic gardeners that have a lifelong passion for plants. Josh’s expertise is with hostas, water gardening, succulents, handmade crafts and unusual plants. His mother Sue has assisted him with the family business. Josh and Sue’s business has been a huge supporter of the Arboretum’s Garden Social and auction for years. We are honored that they are taking the time to make the trip to kick off the auction. The third celebrity we are honored to have attend is Matthew Bailey. Matthew has a PhD in Crop Genetics and Breeding from the University of Georgia. His experiences with the agribusiness industry and academia (ISU) have led him to become a Heuchera (Coral Bells) hybridizer and business owner of Steadfast Plants. He has several potential varieties now in commercial trials. One of the varieties he developed was named for a close friend of his, “Paula Flynn.” Many of you know our board member Paula for her dedication to the Arboretum and to gardening in Iowa. Matthew is donating several of his Heuchera’s to the auction including “Paula Flynn.” You will be treated to an evening featuring live music along with savory appetizers and a delicious dinner. The live auction follows with hundreds of unique plants, garden related items and gifts to bid on. Auctioneers J&J Auction Company will set the stage for an entertaining and engaging evening. We also added a wine draw and a 50/50 raffle for you to enjoy and to further support this important fundraising event.

You can help make this event even better by donating items to the auction or by becoming an event sponsor (information below).

For tickets call 515.795.3216 or go to www.iowaarboretum.org

By Jamie Beyer, Board Member & Committee Chair

ARBORETUM GARDEN SOCIAL AND AUCTION DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS

The Arboretum’s big fundraising event is scheduled for May 5. Consider donating a gift for the live or silent auction. Donate a unique plant, garden décor, theater or concert tickets, certificates to local restaurants or a distinctive gift. This is a great way to support your favorite arboretum.

This year we have added opportunities for you to become an event, table, food, silent auction or live auction sponsor. Free ticket(s) and recognition come with each sponsorship.

For more information, contact Emily at 515.795.3216 or at emily@iowaarboretum.org
THE CONNECTION

Mark Schneider – Executive Director

I had the opportunity to run with a friend through Rock Creek Park in Washington DC at the end of March. This national park was established in 1890 encompassing over 1,754 acres of woodland with its rolling topography, crisscrossing trails, meandering creek and beautiful vistas. The park is open year-round offering city dwellers a sanctuary from their fast pace, noisy and stressful lives.

I spent one hour running in the woods with my friend that day. The conversation was meaningful, stimulating and without interruptions. The outdoor activity was good for the body and the mind. The sounds of nature were delightful. It was a place to go, explore and relax.

You too can find your park.

MY FAVORITE PERENNIAL | Heuchera | Coral Bells

Written by Matthew Bailey

My favorite perennials are the species and cultivars in the genus *Heuchera*. This genus, also known as coral bells or alumroot, is native only to North America, but ranges widely from Mexico to Canada and from the East to West Coasts. They range in size from diminutive, alpine species suitable for troughs and rock gardens to much larger southern woodland or island species that reach the size of small shrubs in optimal conditions. Hundreds of new varieties have been released over the last few decades. *Heuchera* are renowned for their flashy foliage and showy flower displays. On the other hand, plant enthusiasts have found that many of the new varieties lack vigor and durability in the harsh conditions of the Midwest. Interspecific hybrids of *Tiarella* and *Heuchera*, known as *Heucherella*, suffer from the same reputation. The breeding efforts of Steadfast Plants, LLC are designed to combine the showy foliage and flowers of *Heuchera* with durability and vigor necessary to survive and thrive in Iowa.

PLANT FACTS - HEUCHERA

- Common names include coral bells, alumroot, rock geranium, and crag-jangle.
- About 50 species occurring in coastal, mountain, woodland and prairie habitats. Almost all grow in rocky, well-drained habitats (Hint for garden success).
- Iowa native species include *Heuchera richardsonii* (prairie alumroot) and *Heuchera americana*.
- Related to other Iowa natives, *Tiarella* (foamflowers) and *Mitella* (mitrewort)
- ‘Green Spice’ and ‘Palace Purple’ are dependable performers in Iowa.

After surviving a PhD program and several careers in various aspects of soybean genetics and research administration, Matthew Bailey turned his attention to breeding Heucheras in 2010. Matthew is the owner of Steadfast Plants, LLC.
Tell us about yourself: I moved to Nevada to live closer to my daughter. I have lived in North Carolina, Texas, Kansas and Missouri. I have three children, 7 grandchildren and will have a great granddaughter in August, which will be my first.

I have always been interested in gardening. I am currently a Story County Master Gardener. My first volunteer experience at a public garden was at Cape Fear Botanical Garden in Fayetteville, North Carolina. I worked in the office, on the grounds and assisted with tours. When I lived in Texas I met the owners of a local nursery and became interested in growing native plants. They introduced me to growing ornamental grasses, antique roses and salvias.

Why did you start volunteering at the Arboretum? My friend Ann Malven, who was volunteering at the Arboretum and Reiman Gardens, invited me to come with her to the Arboretum to volunteer. I have been volunteering for both organizations for over four years. Ann and I enjoy coming out together to volunteer.

What is your favorite place in the Arboretum? I have two favorite places in the Arboretum. I love the conifer garden. This collection has given me a new appreciation for conifers. I love the trees! Absolutely! I have always loved trees and the Arboretum has hundreds of trees. I miss the live oaks of Texas and the tall pines of North Carolina. The Arboretum allows me to be near trees.

Why would you recommend volunteering at the Arboretum? It is such a neat, quiet place to volunteer. The staff is awesome and I enjoy working with the other volunteers. I like being outside and enjoy the opportunities that the Arboretum offers including classes, workshops and special events. I just love coming here.

In the future… I would love to mow grass at the Arboretum.

Your life and mine should be valued not by what we take...but by what we give.
~ EDGAR ALLEN

RUN FOR THE TREES
SATURDAY, APRIL 29
8:00 am – 10:00 am
Join the Iowa Arboretum and the Boone History Museums 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 am – 12:00 noon
Special tree planting by the mayor of Madrid is scheduled for 10:30 am.

CELEBRATE TREES! Free trees will be given away and a special tree planting by the mayor of Madrid is scheduled for 10:30 am. 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.
The late naturalist and author Hal Borland put it nicely, “No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.” I know that we should count our blessings regarding the mild winter we had. I was especially grateful for the warm spells while pruning. However, we all look forward to the official date and signs of spring. That extra pep in our step allows us to look at nature’s tremendous color palette and dream up an extraordinary landscape to enjoy all summer long.

Capturing that diverse color palette in nature is exactly what this year’s spring plant sale is about. Titled “Color in the Garden,” the plant sale will give gardeners a chance to incorporate colors into their landscape that they never thought possible. From the beautiful periwinkle blue blossoms of *Amsonia* ‘Blue Ice’ to the stunning combination of red wine and white blossoms of *Dianthus* ‘Coconut Punch,’ you are sure to add a splash of color to your garden. However, incorporating stunning flower colors isn’t the only way to broaden your garden color palette. A new *Heuchera* selection of ‘Pretty Pistachio’ offers up lime green to chartreuse leaves with contrasting pink flowers. Its playful relative *Heucherella* ‘Hopscotch’ offers unusual bronze red foliage in the spring that fade to deep green later in the season. If you want both unusual flowers and foliage, give *Pulmonaria* ‘Silver Bouquet’ a try with its large coral to pink to purple flowers and spectacular silver green foliage. For those sunny spots, gardens are sure to be dramatized with the bronze green changing to purple foliage color and huge deep rose flower heads of *Sedum* ‘Thunderhead.’

Many woody selections also offer up the chance to add to the color palette of those larger spaces. *Clethra alnifolia* ‘Ruby Spice’ displays bright pink flowers all summer long with attractive yellow foliage in the fall. For those more protected spots, First Editions™ *Hawaii Hibiscus* makes a bold statement with large blue blossoms accentuated with a red to purple center. If a shade tree is what you need, *Acer platanoides* ‘Variegatum’ is certain to peak your attention with its variegated green and creamy white foliage.

From old favorites to new releases, there is sure to be a plant that can add color to your garden. Mark May 6 and 7 on your calendar for the Iowa Arboretum Spring Plant Sale. Let’s get creative with our garden colors!

A full plant list is available on our website - www.iowaarboretum.org

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**IRISES IN BLOOM**  **FRIDAY, MAY 26**

The American Iris Society’s 2017 convention is coming to Des Moines May 23-27. The Iowa Arboretum was selected as a host garden and is featuring over 400 bearded iris selections. Hybridizers from across the country provided the irises that are displayed in four garden beds. Volunteer Bob Getschman has been instrumental in planting the gardens (fall of 2015), maintaining the plants, record keeping and mapping the site. The conference attendees will visit the Arboretum May 26.

You are invited to visit and see the magnificent collection of irises.
It’s time to make plans to attend the annual Iowa Garden Rendezvous. Tour some of the best conifer gardens in central Iowa. Meet other conifer enthusiasts, talk about plants, see new plants, and get ideas for your garden. Meet at the Iowa Arboretum to start your day.

**SCHEDULE**

9:00 am to 11:30 am – Arrive and tour the Iowa Arboretum. Receive a Rendezvous Souvenir Handout Folder. This will have maps and directions to the other gardens.

11:30 am to 12:30 pm – Lunch at the Iowa Arboretum. Lunch is included in your ticket price.

12:30 pm to 5:00 pm – Visit Gardens (Constance & Greg Skinner, Cindy and Mathew Bailey, Judi & Larry Greene, Paula & Joe Flynn).

To register download the form at www.iowaarboretum.org or contact Gary Whittenbaugh at 319.283.3050/email: franmara@mchsi.com.
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

WOOF WALK
Sunday, May 7

Start at Hughes Education Center porch any time between 1 pm and 3 pm
It's our first WOOF WALK of 2017 - 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 displaying seasonal riddles, all Floppy approved and sure to make you smile. No dog, no problem. You will still get exercise, meet new people, and chuckle. Refreshments and small porch prizes await you. Nan Bonfils and Tobey are your hosts.

FREE
Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome.

Family-friendly activity. Children can participate and appreciate the content.

PUT “SPRING” IN YOUR WALK

What a glorious time of year to bring your dog for a walk around the Iowa Arboretum. You and your dog will get exercise and inhale the freshness of the season. We love this happy combination!

Indeed, we’ve been promoting the Arboretum as a dog friendly destination for several years. We’ve installed two pooch posts for easy access to waste bags. One is at the south end of the main parking lot and the other is at the entrance to the woodland trails. We’ve hosted events like Arb Bark and activities like Woof Walks. The result is more dogs than ever on our grounds.

Increasing popularity with canines means it is more important than ever to keep your dog on a leash at all times for visitor safety, protection of native wildlife and prevention of harm to our plant collections. We provide bags for you to keep the grounds pristine for all of our guests.

We look forward to seeing you at Iowa’s best place for outdoor walking with your four legged friend.

Walking your dog here is free for members. Non-members pay $5.00 per car each visit.

BREEDING DURABLE AND VIGOROUS HEUCHERAS FOR IOWA

PRESENTATION BY DR. MATHEW BAILEY PH.D. & OWNER OF STEADFAST PLANTS, LLC.
MAY 6 AT 10 AM * HUGHES EDUCATION CENTER

The genus Heuchera, also known as coral bells or alumroot, has seen an explosion of new varieties entering the commercial trade over the last decade. New varieties have stunning foliage in a wide range of colors and showy flower displays. Despite their popularity, many Heuchera varieties have a reputation for being weak and/or short-lived. Matthew will present his efforts to combine the showy traits of Heuchera with durability and vigor necessary to survive and thrive in Iowa.
INVESTING IN THE ARBORETUM’S FUTURE

GIFTS OF STOCK

Consider donating appreciated stock to the Arboretum. Gifts of appreciated stock receive normal charitable deductions while eliminating capital gains tax on the appreciation. This is another way to invest in the long-term sustainability of the Arboretum.

Consider visiting with your tax advisor about the possibilities and implications for your situation.
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 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.

**NEW INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

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.

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**SPRING PLANT SALE**

**Theme:** Color in the Garden

Find distinctive perennials, shrubs & trees for the Iowa garden

Saturday, May 6 & Sunday, May 7 • 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (both days)

**Breeding Durable and Vigorous Heucheras for Iowa**

Presentation by Dr. Matthew Bailey on May 6 at 10:00 am

Hughes Education Center