Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association celebrates Iowa Arboretum’s 50th year anniversary with Day of Service

On September 11, 2018 the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association (INLA) marked the 50th anniversary of the Iowa Arboretum with a Day of Service. This annual day of learning and service brought together INLA professionals and horticulture students from area community colleges and universities.

Students from Iowa State University, Kirkwood Community College and Des Moines Area Community College participated this year. The students and members of INLA installed a splash fountain, and new landscape plants around the Hughes Education Center, and installed paver and flagstone walkways at the Kroeze Memorial Tea house.

“INLA members played an important role in starting the Iowa Arboretum back in 1968. It is only fitting we return to the Iowa Arboretum to recognize this historic achievement.” said John Hughes, INLA president.

“INLA members and students have made the Kroeze Memorial Tea House into a destination. The fountain design by arboretum board member Jamie Beyer and the new landscape planting designed by arboretum board president Linda Grieve brings interest to the front entrance and demonstrates their passion and commitment for teaching horticulture students in the region.” said arboretum Executive Director Mark Schneider.

INLA encourages Iowa nursery and landscape professionals and students to volunteer and give back to Iowa communities. Volunteers received lunch, a t-shirt and plenty of cold drinks during the day.

About the Iowa Landscape and Nursery Association (INLA) – Established in 1921, INLA strives to promote the horticulture industry through its membership of growers, landscapers, brokers and retail centers. For more information about Iowa Landscape and Nursery Association, visit www.iowanla.org.
THE CONNECTION

It is important to look back before moving forward. 50 years ago the founders looked over the 40 acre soybean field they had just purchased with a vision to create an arboretum. It was their “Field of Dreams” and their plan was to build an arboretum for future generations to learn about plants, enjoy nature and bring people together. They would be very proud of today’s Iowa Arboretum.

What does the next 50 years look like for the arboretum? Abraham Lincoln said “The best way to predict the future is to create it.” The completion of the master plan was only one step in creating the vision for the future. It will take the courage and vision of our original founders, the knowledge and creativity of the staff, volunteers, and board members to cultivate the arboretum and make it a cultural destination. Most importantly it will take the personal investment of time and resources of many to build it. I invite you to play a role in our future. "The future depends on what we do in the present." ~ MAHATMA GANDHI

MY FAVORITE TREE | Quercus muehlenbergii | Chinkapin Oak

By John D. Gilliland

One of my favorite trees is a native tree called Chinkapin Oak (Quercus muehlenbergii). In Iowa, draw a line from Northeastern Iowa to Southwestern Iowa, and it is native in the eastern half. When I first encountered this tree, I thought that it looked like some exotic tree from Asia or Europe, with its serrated leaves, and handsome form. As I learned more of this tree, I found out that it is a solid hardwood oak tree, very adaptable to a variety of soils, and has very few insect or disease issues. After I bought my current home, I harvested chinkapin oak acorns in the fall of 2007 from the Maquoketa Caves State Park, in Eastern Iowa. In the spring of 2008, I planted from 25 – 30 acorns in my yard in the location that best fit the distance from my house, garage and power lines. I kept the most vigorous sprouts in the fall of 2008 as my selection. This is a very effective way to genetically screen for the best. For the first year, the oak tree seedlings needed a cage over them, as the squirrels and chipmunks want to seize the nuts still attached to the seedling. A fence was also used for the first few years to protect the tree until it was large enough to not be injured by browsers and trampling.

To enhance its growth, I used a variety of horticultural techniques including the following:

- Large area around the tree that is mulched with cedar bark (8ft x 8ft) to keep the turf grass at bay, and to hold moisture - (2-3 inches deep, but only barely covering the soil near the tree trunk).
- Prune in late winter to avoid oak wilt, though chinkapin oak is less susceptible than the red oaks. Prune only to correct any poor form issues.

Today in 2018, I am happy to report that this chinkapin oak tree is 25 ft. tall, with a 20 ft. spread, and a 9+ inch trunk diameter at chest height.

PLANT FACTS (Source: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/forestry/iowa_trees/trees/eastern_redcedar.html)

- Chinkapin oak is in the white oak group, and similar to white, bur and swamp white oaks. It is also one of the “chestnut” oaks, as its leaves resemble those from a chestnut tree.
- Mature height is 40 – 60 ft. Some trees can get bigger. Mature spread is equal or greater than the height. Considered a medium-sized tree.
- Leaves are dark yellow-green on top, and silvery-green underneath. The leaves are serrated, and lack the sinuses of typical oak leaves. Fall color is from a rich yellow to an orange-brown.
- Chinkapin oak has a deep taproot and is difficult to move. It has good drought resistance.
- This tree is very adaptable to a variety of soils. Not meant for swampy or wet areas. Unlike many oak species, this tree thrives in alkaline soils.
- Medium growth rate that slows with age. Growth is enhanced with good care, of course.
- 2009 Urban Tree of the Year: The Society of Municipal Arborists.

John D. Gilliland has a business degree from Iowa State University. He has been learning about, working with and planting trees since the early 1990s. Oaks, hickories, iron wood, and more recently growing conifer (pine, spruce, fir) trees from seed to a harvest size are his experiences. He is also a current “Tree Keeper” for Trees Forever, and a current member of the Brenton and Iowa arboretums.

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Mark Schneider
mark.schneider@iowaarboretum.org

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VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

LYNETTE LANTZ

Tell me about yourself. I am a nurse at Boone County Hospital. I have worked there 29 years. I live in Boone and have a cat named Zebo who came from the “Arb.” My brother Kevin works at the arboretum. He started in 1983 as an intern. My mom (Donna) and my dad (John) started volunteering at the arboretum in the early 90s making pancakes and sausages for special events. My dad continues to volunteer at the arboretum.

Why do you like to volunteer? The arboretum is nice and peaceful. I like to see the seasons change here.

What do you do at the arboretum? I am responsible for feeding the birds along with my dad and brother. I love to see the variety of birds that visit our feeders during the year. I also enjoy seeing the other wildlife that can be seen on the grounds. I help with cleaning, special events and anything that needs to be done. My philosophy is “I see something that needs to be done and I do it.”

Where is your favorite place to go in the arboretum? I love the sitting area created by Nancy Ross in memory of her husband Don (by the Children’s Garden). I enjoy sitting in the colorful Adirondack chairs and listening to the pleasant-sounding chimes. It is peaceful and quiet.

Why would you recommend others to volunteer? There is a need for volunteers. Once a volunteer comes to the arboretum they will enjoy being here. I think they will love it as much as I do.

A Family Legacy

There are many ways to honor your loved ones or friends at the arboretum. Coleen and LaRell Wilkinson decided to purchase a tree to honor their daughters Renne, LeAnne and Melanie. Coleen and LaRell are arboretum members and regular visitors to the arboretum. “This is our way to honor our family and support the arboretum.”

For more information about this and other family tributes visit iowaarboretum.org or call Mark Schneider at 515.795.3216.
AN INTERVIEW WITH RAE VON HOLDT


How did you find out about the Executive Director position at the Iowa Arboretum? I saw an advertisement in the Des Moines Register. I was working for Hennepin Regional Planning Park District in their Planning & Engineer Department. The District was overseeing 26,000 acres of park land in the suburbs of Minneapolis. I was looking for an opportunity to come back to Iowa.

What was your first impression of the arboretum? When I arrived at the arboretum it was a very bare bones operation. The facilities were minimal. It had nowhere to go but up. I was willing to take the challenge for the next 17 years.

What was your greatest accomplishment? The greatest accomplishment was paving Peach Avenue. It was obvious that was the next step for the arboretum. The cost of paving the arboretum was $750,000. I wrote a Vision Iowa grant. The grant required that area communities contribute to the project to demonstrate their support of the project. I was able to get Luther, Madrid, Boone and the 4-H Foundation to contribute. There were countless meetings and presentations. The fundraising was very successful and we were able to pave the road. The road took the arboretum to a new level and it really made a difference. It was heartwarming to see the collaboration from everyone.

What was your greatest challenge? The biggest challenge was fundraising to develop the arboretum.

What is your favorite part of the arboretum? When you come from nothing, everything is important. There was nothing on the grounds, it was bare bones. The gazebo was the first major garden feature and was very special and spectacular. It became a point of interest, a destination for visitors and a place for weddings.

Who had the greatest impact on you while you were employed at the arboretum? That is difficult to say. There are so many people, not just one. I was honored to work with many wonderful board members, staff and volunteers. I looked to them for support and advice. Dale Siems, Ari Kroeze, Lloyd Cafferty, Wayne Koos and Herman Kopitzke provided unquestionable loyalty to me. The staff worked hard and were very loyal. The arboretum would still be a soybean field if it was not for the dedication of so many people. The players have changed but the effort has not. There is such a strong dedication to moving the arboretum to a better place.

What is your wish for the future of the arboretum? My wish is for the arboretum to maintain the original mission of the founders. I also wish for financial stability. The generosity of so many people has left the arboretum in a better place than when it started.

Rae is the owner of Tres Teal in Ames, a women’s clothing store.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE IOWA ARBORETUM PHOTO CONTEST

We are seeking images that convey the beauty of the arboretum. Photographers of all ages and talent are encouraged to submit their best pictures taken at the Iowa Arboretum. Send your fall photos before November 30th to info@iowaarboretum.org. The photos will be judged by attendees at the Dad’s Belgian Waffles event on December 1.
Volunteer of the Year - Jeff Miles

AT THE ARBORETUM

Grapevine Wreath Making Class

Fall Woof Walk

Kevin Lantz and Leah Worth planting the Agnes Whiting iris collection

DMACC class tour

Mary Ellen Silver Leads a Tour

Tour Guide Bobbie Miles leads a tour

From Our Past

The Early Years – Wilbur McVay – Volunteer

Kevin Lantz building children’s tunnel

Board member Donald Lewis and Dorothy Lewis

The Early Years – Board Member Roy Lichtenstein

The Early Years – Board Member Randy Elder

The Early Years – Board Member John Mahlstede
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & CLASSES

EVERGREEN WREATH WORKSHOP
Sunday, December 2 • 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Join us for this festive class! Participants will use fresh-cut greens to create an evergreen wreath for the holiday season that you can hang up that day. With proper care your wreath will last into the new year. Please bring hand clippers and light garden gloves. Make sure to pre-register to secure your spot in this popular class! LIMITED ENROLLMENT. Adult program. Children can participate with a grown up.
$25 members, $30 nonmembers

EVERGREEN CENTERPIECE WORKSHOP
Saturday, December 8 • 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
In this make-and-take class, participants will use fresh-cut greens to create a tabletop arrangement that will last well into the new year. Sandy Gossman will teach you how to produce the perfect centerpiece for your table. Enjoy it in your own home or make it a great gift for another. You will learn how to distinguish between different kinds of evergreens and how to use floral wet foam, wrap, picks and wire. Review basic elements of design and experiment with embellishments such as ribbons and ornaments. Please bring your own clippers and light work gloves. Preregistration is highly encouraged to ensure the availability of materials. LIMITED ENROLLMENT.
Children are welcome accompanied by an adult in making their project. Children who wish to complete a separate project need to pay a separate workshop fee.
$25 members, $30 nonmembers

SNEWSHOEING
Saturday January 19, 2019 • 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM & Saturday, February 16, 2019 • 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Come and test out some snowshoes! Boone County Naturalist Katie Healy will be here to teach participants how to snowshoe on January 19 and February 16. Join us for a discussion about snowshoeing before hitting the trails to experience snowshoeing for yourself. Afterwards, regroup in the Hughes Education Building for a cup of hot cocoa. If there’s no snow, join us instead for a winter hike along the same route. Snowshoes will be provided.
Call or email Katie Healy, Boone County Naturalist, to register and to reserve your snowshoes in advance 515-230-3285 or khealy@boonecounty.iowa.gov

SAVE THE DATES
Pruning Class with Leah Worth – Sunday, March 3, 2019
Spring Symposium (speaker – David L. Culp) – Saturday, April 6, 2019

THEN, NOW, AND IN THE FUTURE
LEAH WORTH – HORTICULTURE PROJECT MANAGER

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

A bohoretum visitors often ask me what they should do in terms of removing a damaged or dying tree in their home landscape. The topic of discussion usually shifts to whether they should plant a tree nearby before the tree is removed or wait until after. They often comment that if it is the latter of the two, they want something there that grows fast, but is sturdy. While I can easily respond with examples of good replacement choices, I can’t forget about the purpose that tree had to the homeowner and its neighbors.

Trees decrease the energy costs from prevailing winter winds if planted in the correct location. Research suggests that a minimum of three rows of trees are needed to provide adequate protection from wind forces. The reduction of wind speed is enhanced as the density and number of rows in the windbreak increases. Multiple species are strongly encouraged, as well as varying selection with coniferous and deciduous species.

The growth rate and crown shape are important in selecting a shade tree, as well as the proximity it has to the house. While deciduous trees provide better year-round shade than conifers, deciduous trees with prolonged leaf retention such as oaks, may cost homeowners more in the winter due to reduced solar energy. A research article stated that the maximum energy savings of trees for conventional houses can be 20% to 25% when compared to the same house without trees. An article by North Carolina State University further states that the evaporation from a single tree is equivalent to 10 room-sized air conditioners operating 20 hours a day. The average monthly utility consumption could therefore increase by 3% in the case of tree removal to the same household; peaking at 5% increase during the summer months due to reduced shade.

Trees also create a habitat and food source for birds and other animals. If listening to songbirds and seeing wildlife is a priority for you, make sure to incorporate those tree species that provide a good habitat and food source. Trees such as hickory, hackberry, Kentucky coffeetree, thornless honeylocust and several oak species are good choices if planted in the correct proximity to the house and powerlines. Planting a tree with columnar form is recommended if space is limited. There are a few cultivars of Quercus x warei (’Nadier’ or ‘Long’) that are more suitable for restricted spaces. We can’t forget the benefit trees provide to other plants. Many of us shade gardeners know the priceless value of trees for our shade loving plants. After all, the hosta world would look awfully bleak if shade trees weren’t a common practice in residential landscapes. Fewer frosts and reduced dew can also be observed under trees due to the reduction of heat loss at night.

While I merely just touched on the numerous benefits of planting a tree, the purpose of doing so isn’t restricted to a specific time of the tree’s or owner’s life. What is interesting about the benefits described, and those not even mentioned, is that all these topics are important today as they were 20 years ago, and will be 20 years in the future. The Chinese proverb, “The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now,” is trying to teach us to take a step back and think about our actions because they will influence our future. Future success and growth is dependent upon the present. Sometimes our immediate satisfaction-mentality causes us to make rash decisions that aren’t thought out properly. In turn, we may be left not only with a higher energy bill, but we may be robbing all these benefits of trees from future generations.

So as far as an answer to the replacement tree discussion goes, take a step back and think about all the environmental, personal and social benefits trees give. Mind their growth requirements. Consider that while ‘fast-growing’ may provide the quickest solution for you, it doesn’t mean it will be the best solution in the future.
Adele and I are pleased to continue our giving to the arboretum. We feel the arboretum is a gem in central Iowa that should be preserved for many decades to come. It has many things to offer to everyone.

If you are a lover of plants and trees you will find many species available for viewing in all stages of maturity at the arboretum. Additionally, classes and seminars covering many aspects of gardening are available throughout the year. Social events are normally planned during the year. We find it a great place to meet new friends from central Iowa.

The new master plan is a long term project which in the next 50 years can make the arboretum a major destination in central Iowa for the entire family. Additional progress has been made through the addition of another 80 acres of prairie, virgin timber and hills and valleys.

We enjoy giving forward so we can watch things being accomplished. We invite you to consider a sizeable gift. We think you will be rewarded by participating.
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. Use the pedestrian gate and auxiliary parking lot when the main parking lot is closed.

1875 Peach Avenue
Madrid, Iowa 50156

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK
Check out our new website! www.iowaarboretum.org

SAVE THE DATE
Dad’s Belgium Waffles
December 1 – 9:00 AM -12:00 PM
Mouthwatering, Delicious, Tasty, Scrumptious, Yummy

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT!
$50 FOR OUR 50TH!

In honor of our 50th anniversary, new members can join the arboretum at the Family Membership level for $50.

Contact Heather at heather@iowaarboretum.org or by calling 515.795.3216 for more information.

ADOPT AN ARBORETUM ACRE PROGRAM
The Iowa Arboretum story began in 1968 with the purchase of a 40-acre parcel of land in Madrid. The “Buy an Acre” fundraising program was established in 1969 to pay off the $16,000 mortgage, with each acre selling for $400. On October 12, 1974, members and friends raised enough money to burn the mortgage.

To commemorate the Iowa Arboretum’s 50th anniversary, a similar program called “Adopt an Arboretum Acre” was created. Donors will be recognized in the arboretum’s newsletter and on a plaque along with an honorary certificate suitable for framing. The price to adopt an acre is $400 as it was when the “Buy an Acre” program was established in 1969.

The program honors the vision of the founders of the arboretum while helping enhance the grounds and gardens during the next 50 years.

For more information, visit iowaarboretum.org or contact Mark Schneider at 515.795.3216 or mark.schneider@iowaarboretum.org.