Spring Fever Symposium
Speaker Karen Chapman
Saturday, April 18th, 2020, 10 AM – 3 PM

Join speaker and author Karen Chapman for a day of talks about gardening. Karen was born in England and moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1996. She became a garden plant specialist and later established Le Jardinet. Karen teaches at multiple workshops and events throughout the year as well as giving presentations at various garden and flower shows, conferences and garden clubs. She specializes in “creating artistic plant combinations with a four season foliage framework, functional outdoor living spaces and deer resistant, summer-dry designs”. Karen is also the co-author of Fine Foliage with Christina Salwitz and Gardening with Foliage First and Deer-Resistant Design, which will all be for sale at the Spring Fever Symposium.

Morning Talk: Deer-Resistant Drama
Learn how to create a beautiful fence-free garden that thrives despite the deer. Discover the importance of a strong design, non-edible focal points, and be inspired by plant combinations that you will love but the deer won’t.

Afternoon Talk: Foliage & Focal Points
Ideas for gardens and budgets of all sizes.

Lunch is included with the price of the ticket. $55 for members and $65 for non-members.
To register, visit www.iowaarboretum.org or call 515.795.2316

Iowa Arboretum Board President, Jamie Beyer

Last November, I was voted in as the president of the Iowa Arboretum. I am succeeding Linda Grieve, who has done an outstanding job of leading us into the next decade. She set the bar high for me and future arboretum presidents. I am passionate about the arboretum and what it offers to our members, visitors and the state of Iowa. The arboretum thrives on the work of many to create wonderful outdoor experiences and educational opportunities. I thank you for being an arboretum member and welcome your suggestions, concerns and comments to make the arboretum even better. My main goal in this position is to have fun, first and foremost. Then, to improve an already outstanding attraction while sharing the beauty of what the arboretum has to offer. Thank you.

MAPLE SYRUP DAY
Saturday, April 4th • 8:30am-11:30am
This is an event for Iowa State University’s Xi Sigma Pi, a national forestry honor society. Visitors will have the chance to learn about the syrup-making process, participate in an interpretive walk, learn about the Iowa Woodland Owner’s Association, and enjoy a timbersports demonstration put on by the Iowa State University Forestry Club. The pancake breakfast is $8 for adults.

SPRING WOOF WALK
Sunday, April 19th • 9am-11am
Join Nan Bonfils for the spring Woof Walk! Enjoy the beauty of the arboretum grounds with your best friend. Dogs on leashes are always welcome. You do not need a dog to attend the walk. It is a great time of the year to be outdoors with nature. This is a free event.

RUN FOR THE TREES
Saturday, April 25th • 7:30am-10am
Register at iowaarboretum.org.

 Arbor Day is approaching! The Iowa Arboretum is holding the annual scenic 5K or 1-mile Family Walk/Run on our 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! Each runner will receive a tree seedling. Please note: We strive to preserve the natural elements of our woodlands; therefore, trails may be muddy due to weather. Please dress accordingly. *More information on page 6

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION
Saturday, April 25th • 9am-12pm
After the Run for the Trees, we invite you for a meet and greet with Smokey the Bear! Help us celebrate Arbor Day with our guests of honor, the Iowa Arborist Association, as they plant a commemorative tree at 10:30 am. There will be a kid’s tree-climbing activity. Each attendee will receive a tree seedling. This is a free event.
THE CONNECTION

Mark Schneider – Executive Director

In November, the Iowa Arboretum officially learned about Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation’s (INHF) intention to purchase all 1,011 acres of Clover Woods 4-H camp. The arboretum is surrounded on three sides by this acreage. As you can imagine, we were concerned about who our new neighbors might be. We, and others in the state, took a collective “sigh of relief” as we discovered the camp was landing in good hands. INHF’s mission is Protecting and restoring Iowa’s land, water, and wildlife. INHF is taking their time to evaluate the site to determine the best way to protect and preserve this amazing natural resource. We look forward to working with our new neighbors to protect the richness of our collective acreage.

And good neighbors make a huge difference in the quality of life. I agree.

- Robert Fulghum

MY FAVORITE PLANT

Dogwood and Longhorns

By Marlin E. Rice

Cornus drummondii, commonly known as roughleaf dogwood, is one of my favorite plants, but not for the common reason of habit, show, or landscape appeal. Roughleaf dogwood is a native shrub to small tree, maturing up to 20 feet in height in its natural landscape. It is found in woodland thickets with an erect form, on a multiple stem base, and is most notably recognized by the rough, upper leaf surfaces amidst white flowers and fruit. The genus, Cornus, is Latin for horn; which ironically enough, is why as entomologist by profession has such a fondness of the plant.

When the roughleaf dogwood shouts in full bloom from the edge of the forest it is time to step in for a closer look. There, among the flat-topped clusters of cream-colored flowers, you may find a delightful fauna of longhorn beetles: members of the family Cerambycidae. The larvae fed on dead and decayed wood in the adjacent forest last summer, and now newly emerged springtime adults are gathered on the blooms to feed and find a mate, often climbing frantically over the foliage as they chase each other. But they won’t be there very long, and you must be intentional if you hope to witness their presence.

A few years ago, my colleague Royce Bitzer, conducted a study just up the road at Ledges State Park. From late May to mid June—for 19 straight days—and from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., he counted the longhorn beetles that came and went on a small clump of roughleaf dogwood. He found that very few beetles are on the blooms at sunrise, but there is a flurry of peak activity from 8:00-11:00, but by 1:00 or 2:00 in the afternoon, most of the beetles had flown away. There was one exception to this early-morning activity and that was on June 6. On this date it rained in the morning, and the beetles stayed hidden. But when the sun came out the beetles flocked to the blooms for a brief couple of hours. Fed and mated. Then vanished back into the forest.

One species, Euderces picipes (6 mm), is the smallest longhorn beetle, but it is one of the most common. It is shiny black with white lateral markings that create the illusion of a narrow “waist,” and if you use your imagination, it looks exactly like an ant.

Another species, Stenocorus schaumi (23mm), is the largest of longhorn beetles on dogwood. It’s dark gray body and contrasting orange legs is a visual pleasure. But it is very rare: if I see even one a year that will be the highlight of June.

By Marlin E. Rice

Marlin E. Rice is a former professor of entomology at Iowa State University (1988-2009). He currently works for Corteva Agriscience in Johnston, IA. He has two longhorn beetle species named after him in recognition of his work on the Cerambycidae. Marlin has set up monitoring traps for longhorn beetle observation in the Iowa Arboretum’s woodlands for the past several years.
The Iowa Arboretum Welcomes the New 2020 Board Members!

**Gabriele (Gabbi) Edwards**

Received a B.S. in Environmental Science and Forestry from Iowa State University in 2014. In 2016 she joined ISU Extension and Outreach as the statewide Urban Forestry Specialist. During her time working at Iowa State she led many educational programs with Master Gardeners, arborists, community groups and hosted informational sessions about Emerald Ash Borer. For the past two years, Gabbi has served as the Urban Forestry Program Specialist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. She coordinates several federal grant programs, oversees the Trees for Kids grant, and is currently leading the 2020 revision to the Iowa State Forest Action Plan. Gabbi also conducts community tree inventories statewide and is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist. Gabbi lives in Ames with her husband Justin (Park Ranger at USACE Saylorville Lake) and two sons (2.5 years and 3 months), tends a large garden and backyard prairie, and enjoys quilting and making clothes for herself and her children.

**Tom Brumback**

Grew up in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia and worked with his dad in the family business of running an International Harvester dealership during his early years. He received BS and MS degrees in Horticulture from Va Tech before completing a Ph.D. degree in Atmospheric Sciences at Missouri. Upon finishing his degree, he became an assistant professor of Agronomy at Virginia Tech where he taught agricultural climatology for seven years. In 1986, he joined Pioneer and rose through the ranks to become director of engineering, responsible for world-wide building of production facilities and automation of specialized equipment for lab and field equipment. Since retiring in 2015 he has pursued his numerous hobbies including gardening, woodworking, scuba diving, hunting, camping with his grandkids and hobby farming a recently acquired tract in Winterset. He is currently on the board of the Des Moines Woodworkers Association.

**Kris Jurik**

Kris and her husband live near Ames and have several acres of gardens with expansive collections of hostas, peonies, irises, lilies, and complementary plants. They have hosted three national society garden tours in the last three years. Kris is a long-time member and volunteer for the Iowa Arboretum. Kris is the Treasurer of the American Peony Society and has been an officer in various iris, hosta, and lily societies. She teaches water aerobics and bogafit classes in Ames. She enjoys swimming, bicycling, kayaking, and being amongst her plants.

**Jan Thompson**

Jan, known as “The Tree Lady,” is Morrill Professor of Forestry in the ISU Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management. She earned her Ph.D. in Forestry with an emphasis in Biology from Iowa State University and teaches several courses on forestry, urban forestry, urban ecology and biodiversity conservation. Her research program looks at the dynamics of urban land use, characteristics of urban trees and forests and practices that protect water quality in urban environments. She also investigates the role of trees to support resiliency for urban residents facing the need for climate adaptation. Jan is an award-winning instructor and has experience in cooperative and collaborative learning.

**Mike Bevins**

Mike is the owner of Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs. He specializes in propagating and growing native plants from locally collected trees. Mike retired as the State Horticulturist for Iowa in 2016 after 18 years of service. His career also included working as the manager of Miller Nursery and as the co-owner of TNT Landscaping and Nursery. He is an Iowa State University alumnus (forestry and horticulture). Mike lives across the river, just west of the arboretum, with his wife Pegi and their two dogs and two cats.

**Alex Andrade**

Alex is an MBA alumnus of ISU and the Program Manager of the ISU Ivy College of Business experiential learning program- CyBIZ Lab. Also working under the Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship in the ISU Research Park, CyBIZ Lab provides students with a real-life project experience by partnering with companies from startups, nonprofits, and pre-venture to large international companies. Students are hired to work on semester-long projects with industry in market research, customer discovery, business/marketing strategic planning and more. Alex is also a nature lover and hiker, and environmental activist fighting for clean energy and clean water through non-partisan, people-powered organizations in the State of Iowa.

**Tom Brumback**

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**Gabriele Edwards**

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A Precocious Strategy
By Leah Worth – Horticulture Project Manager

Whether you embraced every individual snowflake as it glistened in the winter’s sky, or only finally came out of the winter blues since Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early spring, you probably still anticipate this time of year. You begin to notice the end of dormancy signs in an array of plants. Sap begins to drip from pruning wounds as deciduous woody perennials awake. As stored starch converts into sugar, buds soon begin to swell and break, promoting the allure of new shoots and flowers.

We often associate plant development with the beginning of vegetative growth, followed by establishment, and concluding with the important task of reproduction, through flowering. There are a whole host of plants, however, that possess a precocious flowering strategy; using the stored energy and carbohydrates accumulated in dormancy to first produce the flowers that provide the seeds for reproduction. The rest of the growing season can then be focused on growth and storing energy for next season. Flowering before leaf emergence also ensures that sunlight, which is required for both flower and leaf development, can be most captured; in addition to aiding in wind and insect pollination.

Trees and shrubs that offer March or April blooms before their leaf counterparts are highly favored in a landscape. Classic examples include redbud (Cercis canadensis), Loebner and star magnolias (Magnolia x loebneri and Magnolia stellata), many fruiting trees (Prunus and Malus species), and forsythia (Forsythia x intermedia). There are a number of lesser-known shrubs that deserve the same recognition.

Heralding the arrival of spring are the soft, fuzzy catkins of pussy willow (Salix discolor). Though it is an easily-overlooked multi-stemmed deciduous shrub for most of the year, the adaptability, fast growing nature, and fresh-arrangement potential of this species makes it a desirable specimen in many landscape applications. You may be able to spot a similar, non-native species (Salix caprea), among the hedge of the ravine and creek bed on the main campus.

Fothergilla, or witch-alder (Fothergilla major and gardenii), displays an array of white, bottle-brush like blooms at its branch tips in April and early May. Flowers provide an early-season nectar source for an array of pollinators, as well as provides a natural hedge in native or wildlife gardens. Fall color is an outstanding red. You can find this double-duty shrub along the shore of the arboretum’s wedding pond adjacent to the Butterfly Garden Collection.

Other precocious bloomers to look out for in the landscape include flowering quince (Chaenomeles speciosa), winter hazel (Corylopsis glabrescens var. gotoana), flowering dogwood (Cornus florida), and a number of azalea (Rhododendron) varieties.

Thank you, Toro Company!

The Toro Company donated a Workman Utility Vehicle to the arboretum this fall. Their Product Donation Program selects nonprofit organizations and provides them with high-quality products for maintaining their facilities and to help them achieve their mission. The grant proposal recognized the tremendous commitment and dedication of the arboretum’s volunteers maintaining the grounds, gardens, and trails.
Boone Master Gardeners decorate their tree

Holiday Wreath Workshop attendees pose with their finished wreaths

Volunteer of the Year Larry Eckhart

A family enjoying Dad’s Belgian Waffles

Volunteers Jan Pedersen and Mary Ellen Silver enjoying Dad’s Waffles

ISU students from the Natural Resource Ecology & Management Department pose during a tour

Welcoming a new member to the arboretum family, Luna Worth

Attendees of Dad’s Belgian Waffles enjoying the trains
Join the Iowa Arboretum for our annual 5k and 1 mile family friendly run/walk on our unique and magnificent trails. Arbor Day activities will follow the race!

Register on getmeregistered.com or go to iowaarboretum.org and click the link on the event listing.

Check-in will start at 7:30 am. The race will begin at 9 am.

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**Run for the Trees**

April 25th, 2020

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**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH**

*By Kevin Lantz*

The White-Breasted Nuthatch has a slightly upturned bill and a short tail. It has a blue-gray colored back, a white face and belly with a rust-colored rump. The Nuthatch also has a black or grayish cap and nape.

White-Breasted Nuthatch are year-round visitors. Their habitat consists of deciduous forests, suburban areas and parks.

The nest of this bird is made up of strips of bark, hair and feathers. Nuthatches nest in tree cavities as well as birdhouses. They lay between five and seven eggs that can be identified by their white color with brown markings. Both sexes incubate the eggs, which take about 12 days to hatch. The young leave the nest about 14 days after hatching. They have one brood per year.

White-Breasted Nuthatches feed on nuts, seeds, insects and fruits.

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**Spring Membership Drive**

March 21 – May 31

The Iowa Arboretum will be holding a Spring Membership Drive March 21 – May 31 for new members. This is the perfect time to join and take advantage of the $10 discount being offered on Individual and Family memberships.

Joining can be done in person, online, or over the phone. This promotion is for new members only.

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White-Breasted Nuthatch by Kevin Lantz

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Save the Date!

Garden Social & Auction
Friday, May 1st 2020
5 pm - 9 pm

"Tasteful Gardens"

Enjoy an evening featuring live music along with dinner. J&J Auction Company will lead the live auction. Both the live and silent auctions will feature unique plants, garden-themed items, and gifts to bid on. Come early to get a sneak preview of the Spring Plant Sale and be the first to purchase the best plants!

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