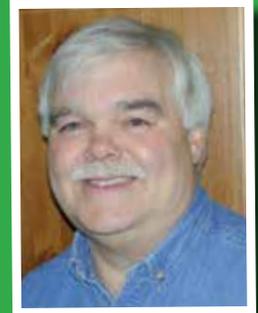


President's Message to the Membership



Jamie Beyer
President

This is not a normal message to our supporters and membership. The Iowa Arboretum was founded on the principles of showcasing trees and shrubs that can be grown in Iowa. The founding members and staff planted a lot of trees way back in 1970's (as well as every year since) and we have been fortunate to have enjoyed these beautiful, mature trees. These have been the backbone of our plant collections. That backbone has been broken some.

Well, as a lot of you already know, the derecho windstorm that hit Central and Eastern Iowa on Monday, August 10, hit the Arboretum especially hard. Winds of between 100 to 140 mph for 30 to 45 minutes uprooted/split/topped some of our most valuable showcase trees. A lot of these trees took 40 to 50 years to grow and became beloved by all members. Any Arboretum member/supporter obviously loves trees. It truly is sad to see the damage. A total of 133 trees were completely destroyed to the point of needing to be removed and another 81 have a lot of damage to them. This is just on the main campus. We have yet to determine the damage to our woodlands to the East. There was some damage to the structures but manageable. Structure damage can be fixed relatively quickly but the trees, as you know takes generations. Now is the time to pick up the pieces and get the Arboretum back to being a showcase.

Since the storm, volunteers have shown up in large numbers to assist the staff in removing the dangerous situations. We are humbled by the outpouring of volunteers. The process of cleaning up will take months if not years to get things back in an okay situation.

We immediately created a "Storm Relief" campaign to help with the expenses incurred from the storm. Contributions continue to come in from supporters. Any funds left over will be directed to planting new trees. The replacement of the trees will take resources that we never imagined would be needed. We will be starting the "ReLeaf the Iowa Arboretum Campaign" this spring to raise important funds to restore the Arboretum. Thank you to those that have contributed to the Storm Relief campaign. Again, this is not a normal message to our membership. These are crazy times and connecting with each other has increasingly been done through Zoom and Facetime. Well, I do not know about you, but I miss connecting in person.

I must share with you an additional story. The arboretum must run as a business. Like most nonprofits, our normal revenue stream has slowed down in recent months. Some nonprofits have a steady source of income from outside sources, like government. The Iowa Arboretum does not - it is 100 percent dependent on our fundraising events, contributors, and other sources of income to provide an arboretum of the highest quality. We are also extremely fortunate to have very dedicated and talented employees, volunteers and Directors. They are like family, and I am not saying this lightly- they truly are. Please, when you have a chance, thank them for their dedicated service to the Iowa Arboretum.

Now is the time to measure how truly benevolent we are. To conserve and preserve our natural resources for future generations is truly a noble act. The Arboretum history is rich with people who had a vision and gave their talent, time, and resources to the Arboretum. I am humbled by their contributions!

2020 and 2021 will determine how we leave the Arboretum for future generations. I am asking all of us to step up and donate to preserve and rebuild the arboretum, a true gem that has provided so many of us with positive memories and fun times.

Thank you for your support in the past and hopefully, now, as we focus on replanting and growing the Iowa Arboretum.



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THE CONNECTION

Mark Schneider – Executive Director



On August 10th, a derecho storm rolled through central Iowa causing major damage to the Arboretum's grounds and facilities. Garden structures, sculptures and trees were damaged or destroyed by 100+ mile an hour winds during the 45-minute storm. It was a depressing day for the staff and volunteers who put their hearts and souls into the Arboretum every day.

It was no surprise to me to see the resolve and resiliency of our staff and volunteers as they immediately transformed into cleanup mode. Equally impressive were our incredible members and friends who sent donations to support the storm relief effort.

There are so many positive stories that can be told in the aftermath of the storm. There is the board member and his wife who bought lunch for all the volunteers and staff. There was the former board member who retrofitted the tractor bucket into a grapple bucket for picking up large piles of brush. There were our friends from Reiman Gardens, The Brenton Arboretum, and the USDA Plant Introduction Station in Ames who showed up with chainsaws, smiles on their faces, and a willingness to help a friend in need. Good people doing exceptional things!

Stephen Covey once said "You are not a product of your circumstances, but a product of your decisions." There will be challenging days ahead. I am confident that we will make the right decisions that will lead us to new opportunities for growth.

« Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them
is what makes life meaningful. » - Joshua J. Marine

MY FAVORITE TREE "The Oak"

By Jan Thompson

Like several authors of this newsletter feature before me, I found it difficult to choose just one plant to describe as my favorite! Of course, I am a forester, so I must choose a tree. Although for many years it annoyed me that the state tree of my adopted state Iowa is "The Oak" (come on friends, make a commitment!), now here I am claiming it as my favorite plant.



**New northern red oak
(*Q. rubra*) leaves in spring.**

Why the change of heart? Over time I've realized that this is truly an incredible genus group. And the genus also has many "Celebrity Trees" across the temperate world, such as the *Major's Oak*, a tree that Robin Hood's band reportedly used as a hiding place in Sherwood Forest, and the (former) *Royal Oak*, a tree suggested to have been the hiding place of at least two British kings (also in England).

Not to be left out, we also have many celebrity oaks in the United States – the *Great Oak* (Temecula, CA), the (former) *Charter Oak* (Hartford, CT), the *Emancipation Oak* (Hampton, VA), the *Angel Oak* (Johns Island, Charleston, SC) the *Seven Sisters Oak* (who also serves as the President of the Live Oak Society, in Lewisburg, LA) and the (former) *Wye Oak* (which held the title of "Largest White Oak Tree in the U.S." until its demise in 2002, located in Wye Mills, MD).

Of course, we also grow amazing oak trees here in Iowa, including the celebrity *Black Hawk* tree (in rural Pottawattamie County), the *Shady Oaks* (Marshall County), the (former) *Council Oak* (in Sioux City), and the *Plow Oak* (or "Plow in the Oak," near Exira). The oldest living oak tree in Iowa is somewhat disputed, but is likely to be a white oak growing in one of our state preserves that is on the order of 400 years old. Think of that: It likely germinated in the early 1600s! That makes me feel like a youngster.

Before the recent storm event, the Arboretum held a fine collection of many species of oaks, including black, bur, chinkapin, pin, red, shingle, swamp white, and white oaks, as well as several hybrids. While staff are still assessing the damage, please consider making a contribution toward restoration of these great trees. And, although they will be larger and older in 400 years, don't wait that long before you visit!



A southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) in Mobile, AL.

Jan Thompson is a new Board Member serving the Iowa Arboretum. She teaches forestry courses and does research on urban forestry and urban ecology at Iowa State University.

VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

Kim McBride

1. TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF

I spent my childhood on a family farm in NE Story County. My father raised cattle, pigs, corn, soybeans, oats, alfalfa for hay. We always had a large vegetable garden, canning and freezing much of our produce. Memories of eating warm strawberries off the vine and shucking peas, snapping green beans and more are still vivid.

After 9 years in Iowa City area, 3.5 years in Canada, 23 years in Connecticut and 4.4 yrs. in Maryland I was able to move back to Iowa in 2016 and am enjoying feeling at home again. I raised four children during those years and they are all adults now. I have a third Brittany dog, Sammy, who rescues me every day.

My work background was as an RN before having children, working in health care again starting in 2009, working at a garden center in Maryland for several years and a garden center in Iowa for a couple of years. I now work in fresh production at a big box store doing baking, deli cooking and slicing and a variety of other things part time.

I obtained my master gardener and master naturalist certification during my years in Maryland and was also a tree steward for the county I lived in. Working with the public and teaching them about best practices of conservation and sustainability has been very satisfying.

Since returning to Iowa I completed the ISU Extension master gardener program in 2019 and am very pleased to have the Arboretum open again to assist and serve the staff and public.



2. WHY DO YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER?

Volunteer work, especially in a nature setting, is very relaxing for me. I enjoy being of service and also speaking with the public answering their questions and sharing helpful information about caring for home landscapes, IPM and general maintenance and care of plant, shrub and tree materials. And if I don't know the answer to a question I enjoy finding out and learning right along with the public.

3. WHAT DO YOU DO AT THE ARBORETUM?

For now, I am focusing my volunteer time on the viburnum bed and the tea garden beds. I have long been a fan of multi season viburnums and the tea garden also has many interesting plant materials. I have been removing weeds and doing some deadheading as well as some light pruning as needed. The wasted materials are then placed on the compost heaps at the back of the arboretum. Our hours are logged in a binder to assist with claiming volunteer hours related to grant funding.

4. WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO GO IN THE ARBORETUM?

My favorite place in the arboretum is the white pine bench near the children's garden overlooking the pond with fountain. The bench was made by Jim Rock from a white pine removed from my front yard in 2017. Jim belongs to the Iowa Arborists Association and I was so pleased to learn part of my huge white pine was repurposed for the bench at the arboretum. I also love the rock garden materials and the lady slippers when they pop in their secluded locations. I also hike the Woodland Trails with my dog, Sammy, when time and weather allow. Before volunteering I tried to get out to the arboretum to exercise and see what was blooming or showing foliage interest at least one to two times per season. And I so appreciate the Governor's Oak trees collection as well as other significant trees of the arboretum. I'm definitely a tree nerd.

5. WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND OTHERS TO VOLUNTEER?

Volunteering at the arboretum benefits both the person volunteering and the arboretum itself. The peace and beauty of the grounds and the ideas one gets viewing different plant materials and display techniques are very inspiring. And the satisfaction of contributing to a place that educates and serves the public is a wonderful feeling. I would recommend getting involved with volunteering at the arboretum in some capacity as your time allows.

“Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud.” – Helen Dyer

Meet the Interns



Brooke Dietsch is the arboretum's Horticultural Intern. Her main projects for the summer have included beautifying the grounds and helping maintain them. She has also been strengthening her plant and insect identification skills. Brooke is a senior at Iowa State University, majoring in Horticulture with a Public option. Her dream job is to do conservation in a national parks setting.

Erika Rossow was the Iowa Arboretum's summer Special Events Intern. Her project for the summer was to plan virtual events along with the Family Scavenger Hunt, which was her major project that took place on the Arboretum Grounds this past July. She is a senior at Iowa State University majoring in Event Management. Erika is from West Des Moines, IA. Her long-term goal is to start her own wedding planning business in Dallas, Texas.



Visions for the Iowa Arboretum

by Tyler Johnson, Curator of Collections and Grounds



Well, 2020 sure has been a year. When I started back in May, (what seems like ages ago!) I was excited to start making some exciting new changes and additions to the Arboretum. But as you most likely know, a nasty derecho decided to change our plans. Fortunately, as horticulturists, we're used to change; it's what we do. Every day we have something different to do, even when it's the same task as the day before. The location may change, the tree may be different, or the group of people we're working with each day could vary. We get to nurture plants from inception to adulthood, over and over again; and no two plants will grow exactly the same or have the same needs throughout their lifecycle. Our jobs are to be flexible and absorb as much of the potential harm that may come to our wards, who are largely defenseless on their own. While this event may have been particularly devastating, ultimately nothing changes from this storm to the next. We did, and continue to do our very best.

We learn to adapt. Plants have been doing it for millennia, and they've survived this long, so maybe it's time to take a page out of their book. So we grow on. And so do the plants. Even half toppled over, roots torn from the ground, these trees continue to grow. It's a great lesson in perseverance (or maybe stubbornness) walking the grounds each day. Seeing these trees undamaged and not, and their changes and reactions to these events is definitely a unique sight I never imagined I would see. Especially in stark contrast to the remaining collections that we continue to tend, because as handy as it would be plants don't take days off.

What have we learned so far? First off, it's amazing what a team of determined volunteers can do. Do you know how daunting of a task it is to figure out which tree to make the first cut on when there are over 133 specimen trees in the arboretum that need removal? I don't. Because I have a great team that didn't hesitate to jump right in and start doing what needed to be done. Fortunately, we have Kevin Lantz, our grounds Horticulturist, who has championed the volunteers into knocking out a substantial chunk of the tree removal in just a few short weeks. No matter that some of these people may have cared for these trees throughout their entire lives. Now to them, it's just like another weed in the garden. We have to get it out and move on to the next in order to make space for something new and exciting. And though it may be exhausting, everyone keeps coming back. It's almost as if, during all of their time enjoying the arboretum over the years, some of these trees have rubbed off on them; teaching the resilience we need to make the Arboretum even better. A sentiment shared by the staff who has also come together to help restore the arboretum.

While we may only be able to see the loss now, this is a major turning point for the arboretum. We can use this opportunity to modify garden beds, make paths more accessible, and move plants to locations they're better suited to now that spots have opened. We've learned what hurricane force winds can do to trees in the Midwest, and what trees to recommend for planting in the future. We're making the most of a bad situation by using unique downed trees to learn about their dye properties, doing seed collection to keep important germplasm in the collection, and coming up with lots of ideas of things to make with tree cookies for sales and fundraisers.

Most importantly, I've learned we're all in this together. We're all here for the same goal: to create a beautiful space for all to enjoy. It's going to be a crazy journey, but we've already made it through the tears, so now it's time for the fun. So, the next time you are able to visit the Arboretum, don't look at the loss and destruction, look at the future. See these new open spaces as potential new gardens with the opportunity to introduce new and exciting plant specimens we haven't had before. After all, it's our mission to demonstrate the value and use of plants in the Iowa landscape. Now we know even better what can survive the extremes of the Midwest. So stick around and watch what we do, it's going to be exciting. Let's get growing!

Make a Difference

There are many great options for contributing to the Iowa Arboretum.

- The 2020 CARES Act allows you to deduct up to \$300 in qualified charitable giving if you are not itemizing (you can give more).
- The new bill also expands charitable tax deductions for taxpayers who both itemize and give more than 10 percent of their income to nonprofits. For those who itemize, the bill increases the cap on annual giving to 100 percent.
- Over 70 ½ years old? Make a charitable contribution from your IRA! A qualifying charitable distribution (QCD) allows you to donate up to \$100,000 per year directly to a qualified charity from your IRA and exclude it from income.

Consult your tax advisor for additional information. The Iowa Arboretum is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

AT THE IOWA ARBORETUM & Gardens



Volunteer Susan Siev working in the Perennial Garden



Greg Anderson was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award



Volunteer Bob Getschman and Horticulturist Kevin Lantz working in the Perennial Garden



Volunteers help with storm damage cleanup



Volunteers help remove storm damaged tree

Eagle Scout Projects Completed at the Arboretum



LIAM WRIGHT'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT - Animal secure trash cans around the grounds



JOSH ROMITTI'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT - New tunnel in the Children's Garden

Former Board Member Nan Ripley Wins the Stout Silver Medal

By Lois Girton

Congratulations to Nan Ripley of Nevada, IA, a recent Iowa Arboretum board member and daylily hybridizer, for winning the 2019 Stout Silver Medal, the highest award given by the American Hemerocallis Society (also known as the American Daylily Society <https://daylilies.org/daylilies/awards/>) for her 2006 introduction, 'Scarlet Pimpernel'. Nan was to receive the medal at the 2020 national AHS convention this summer but the meeting, like many others, was cancelled due to COVID-19.

My first memory of Nan, probably from 1994, is of sitting together on the floor of our three-season

porch, exhausted after preparing for an Ames Garden Club plant sale. Nan was already a keen gardener. As her Walkabout Gardens expanded, she hosted more and more tour groups. In 1998, one of those was the Marshalltown Master Gardeners, among them Don Lovell, a daylily hybridizer, who stayed late to watch the sunset from her back patio. He suggested Nan, a watercolorist, try her hand at hybridizing so she could "paint her own flower" and then immediately proceeded to show her the basics of making a cross. She was hooked, and now she has won the highest honor given by the AHS, only the 10th woman to receive the award in its almost 70-year history for a plant from one of her earliest crosses!

Nan breeds both diploid and tetraploid (dips and tets) daylilies; the tets, having twice as many genes, often produce more fancy flowers with more substance, ruffles, toothed edges, differently colored eye zones and edges, and stronger stems. A major consideration in tets is whether the large, heavy flowers remain graceful. Nan is equally concerned with branching, bud count, succession of bloom, overall vigor and increase of the plant. She reports 'Scarlet Pimpernel' is one of the fastest to make a substantial clump. More information about the daylily can be found on her website www.walkaboutgardens.com/.

About the award: The AHS has three levels of awards open to all flower forms: Honorable Mention (HM), Award of Merit (AM), and the Stout Silver Medal; only AHS Garden judges can vote for the nominees. Hybridizers nominate their own registered cultivars for the first level



(HM); HM awardees are then eligible for the AM; and one Stout Silver Medal winner is selected from recent AM cultivars. Winners should have proven performance in all regions where daylilies can be grown. 'Scarlet Pimpernel' previously won the Ned Roberts Spider/Unusual Form Award in 2013.

We will be privileged to add an Iowa-hybridized plant from "one of our own" to the Stout Silver Medal beds around the Beckwith Pavilion. Who knew, in 1997, when we started this collection, that we would some day have a winner so close to home?

Lois Girton of Ames is also a former board member who chaired the plant collections committee for many years. Reading A Passion for Daylilies by Sydney Eddison was the inspiration for assembling the Stout Silver Medal collection at the Arboretum. One of the local daylily enthusiasts she contacted for possible contributions was the late Max C. Olson of Des Moines. This outreach spurred his considerable involvement with the Iowa Arboretum. Max entered paper copies of accession records into a digital database still used today. He also left a sizable sum from his estate to the Iowa Arboretum.



EASTERN BLUE BIRD

By Kevin Lantz

This Spring, the Iowa Arboretum started to replace all of the old Eastern Bluebird boxes with brand new ones. The old Bluebird boxes had been in use for many years and were in desperate need of repair. So far, 19 new Bluebird boxes were purchased and put out on the grounds and prairie trails.

The Eastern Bluebird is a beautiful, bright blue bird that is seen along roadsides, farmyards, orchards, and most other rural settings. Over the years, due to loss of habitat, Bluebirds have been declining in numbers. By putting out new Bluebird boxes, we hope to help increase the Bluebird population at the Iowa Arboretum and surrounding areas.

The first Bluebird sighting at the Iowa Arboretum was this spring on March 10th. By the end of March, two Bluebirds boxes had signs of nesting activity. By the first week of April, we had found nesting materials in twelve of the nineteen Bluebird boxes.

The middle of May, we had twenty-five Bluebird eggs. The following week, we had twenty baby Bluebirds, with the other eggs continuing to hatch. In June, we started to see more Bluebird eggs appearing in the Bluebird boxes. Besides Bluebirds, we had two nests of Tree Swallows with eggs.

The rest of the Bluebird boxes were taken over by House Wrens. The Bluebird boxes that were taken over by wrens will be relocated to another spot that will hopefully be more attractive to Bluebirds.

We think that our efforts have been successful!

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January 29 through June 30, 2020

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In Honor of Kevin Lantz

- Given by Evangelical
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Nadine Beck

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M P Ciccarone
Jennifer Corey
Calvin & Barbara Gatch
James & Marjorie Hennings
Laura Hoffman
Susan Hoskinson
Jeffrey & Lois Thompson
Alec Turner
Aletheia Turner

In Memory of Marjorie Shreve
Robert Fisher
William Shreve

In Memory of Dorothy Wilcox
Todd & Johna Clancy
Douglas & Lora Nunes
Kacy Schwartz

DONATED GOODS & SERVICES

Tom Brumback
Rhonda Getschman
Lois Girton
Tom Jordan
Wayne Koos
Lynette Lantz
Megan Mariotti
Microsoft Philanthropies
Jeff & Bobbie Miles
Mark Schneider



Sharing our Passion for Trees,
Plants and Nature with All of Iowa

1875 Peach Avenue
Madrid, Iowa 50156

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Permit No. 10

The Iowa Arboretum is temporarily closed as we focus on cleaning up the damage from the derecho storm. Please call or check our website for updates on the opening of the grounds.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK

Check out our website! www.iowaarboretum.org

ReLeaf Seasonal Floral Creations

For decades Sandy Gossman and Nan Bonfils have been leading seasonal floral workshops. They have fired up your imaginations and guided your hands to create beautiful projects you take home with a smile. All to the benefit of the Iowa Arboretum.

Workshops are not possible this year because of COVID-19 and derecho aftermath. But Sandy and Nan still wanted to raise funds for Arboretum ReLeaf and make you smile. So they will be creating floral designs to sell online through the Arboretum website and donate all the money raised to the Arboretum ReLeaf fund.



Grapevine ReLeaf Wreath - Support the storm relief effort by purchasing a grapevine wreath. You can order one online at iowaarboretum.org for pick-up on Saturday September 26 at the Arboretum from 9 am to 12 noon. Each wreath costs \$35 which you can pay when you order online.

No two wreaths will be quite alike so come early for the widest selection. Nan or Sandy will be there to greet you.

Evergreen ReLeaf - In December they will make and sell four different evergreen designs ranging from soup bowl size to larger centerpiece and entryway items to full wreath. The prices will range from \$10 to \$35 depending on size and materials. No two alike, but every one will be packed with fresh evergreens. You will be able to see samples on the website and you can begin to order on November 7th for pick up on Saturday, December 5 from 9 am to 12 noon. Nan or Sandy will be there to greet you.

Iowa Arboretum and Gardens 2020 Annual Meeting

The 2020 annual meeting of the members of Iowa Arboretum, Incorporated will be held on November 12, 2020. The meeting will be held by Zoom Video and/or audio conferencing. Registration will begin at 12:15 P.M. The meeting will begin at 12:30 P.M. 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 Member

Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

Zoom Video Login: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82677649012?pwd=bFUvM05teTnhQkR1R0NlB2J6RGU2QT09>

Zoom Audio Login: Dial: (646) 568-7788 Meeting ID: 826 7764 9012 Passcode: 124502

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

This notice dated at Madrid, Iowa, this 4th day of August 2020:

Tom Jordan, Secretary