

News Letter

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Civic Center, Iowa City, Iowa 52240
www.projectgreen.org

PROJECT GREEN

PUBLISHED IN EARLY SPRING AND LATE FALL

FALL 2010

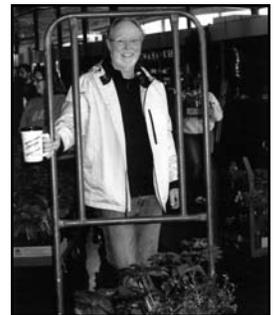
2010 GREEN Garden Fair Marks 39 Years of Success

Held May 9, 2010, at Carver-Hawkeye Arena, Project GREEN's 39th annual GREEN Garden Fair offered a great variety of sunny and shade perennials, trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and Judy Allen's special garden art. Even though it was rainy and cold, the fair drew good crowds, and our net profit was \$22,420.83.

Many thanks to all our volunteers who worked so hard to make this fair a success. From those who did the digging, dividing, and potting, to those who worked behind the tables selling and advising, to those who were plant sitters and checkers, we had a great team! Special thanks to Judy Allen for her garden art and to Harriet Woodford of Leaf Kitchen for hosting the food area and offering wonderful cookies and muffins. Thanks also to the information tables staffed by representatives from Master Gardeners, the city forester, the DNR, Heritage Trust, and the Iowa City Landfill.

Over the years, Project GREEN Garden Fair profits have been used to beautify and upgrade landscaping all around Iowa City, along the roads leading into the city, in parks, along street medians, and along the river. The fair also underwrites landscaping projects at all of our community public schools through GREEN Grants for Schools.

Please plan to attend the next Project GREEN Garden Fair on May 7, 2011, at Carver Hawkeye Arena. Come help us celebrate our 40th year!



Happy Project GREEN volunteers and happy Garden Fair shoppers.



2011 Sunday Garden Forums Plants, Water, and Stone-- What More Could You Want!

Are you interested in the newest plants for 2011? Discover new and old plants to combine for just the right effect in your landscape at our 2011 Sunday Garden Forums. Strengthen the "bones" or structure of your landscape with stone and water features from the lessons on ponds, use of water in the garden, stone paths, walls, and stone features.

The Project GREEN Sunday Garden Forums take place on February 13, March 6, and April 10, 2011. This series of presentations, sponsored by The Iowa City Public Library and Project GREEN will be offered, free of charge, in Room A of the Iowa City Public Library from 2:00-4:00. Please note that our first forum will contain two presentations by Jamie Beyer. As a result, that forum will run from 2:00-5:00 P.M.

After a break for refreshments, there will be time for Q & A with the speaker of the day. The forums will be televised on Library Cable Channel 10 and are available for checkout a few weeks following presentation on DVD in the library non-fiction video collection. These forums qualify as education credits for Master Gardeners.

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Project GREEN Needs YOU!

- **Volunteers are our most vital commodity! Consider the GREEN Garden Fair, the GREEN Garden Tour, or a Garden Forum as your volunteer activity. Refer to the web pages (www.projectgreen.org) describing these events for complete information.**
- **We also need a secretary to take minutes at the monthly steering committee meeting. Please contact Cindy Parsons (cparsons@icialaw.com) or Diane Allen (dlallen16@hotmail.com) if you are interested.**



A Special Project GREEN Tribute to Marilyn Long

By Cindy Parsons

Project GREEN members are saddened by the loss of long-time supporter and dedicated volunteer Marilyn Long. Marilyn passed away peacefully at her Iowa City Oaknoll home on July 29, 2010, at the age of 80. Marilyn's Project GREEN life was characterized by the invaluable combination of expertise, willingness to learn, and commitment that has always been the trademark of our organization's volunteers. Marilyn described herself as a "founding listener" of Project GREEN, a title that implies a passivity quite unknown to her. Marilyn was involved with and supported Project GREEN from the time of its inception in 1968 and continuing throughout her lifetime.

Among her many Project GREEN volunteer activities, Marilyn served as newsletter editor for twenty-four years, until she retired from that post in 1998. The first newsletters were produced by Gretchen Harshbarger, one of Project GREEN's founding mothers, but Marilyn soon became the editor. Applying her background in journalism—and being a stickler for good design, correct grammar, and proper punctuation—Marilyn was the one person most responsible for the professional appearance and content of each newsletter, twice a year for a quarter-century.

Marilyn herself might attribute her attention to detail to Gretchen's influence. Some of Marilyn's fondest GREEN memories were of potting parties at the Harshbargers', when groups of perhaps twenty people would gather to prepare plants for the spring sale. Gretchen too was a stickler for the correct way to do anything associated with gardening. Marilyn remembered being reminded, kindly but very firmly, that gardening involves not "dirt" but soil. It was also Gretchen who insisted that Marilyn master the botanical names of plants she worked with, suggesting in the gentlest way that a mispronunciation could "perhaps" be a bit different, and "maybe we should look that up."

Only someone who is prepared to pay close attention will succeed in starting perennials from seeds, as Marilyn continued to do each spring until she moved to Oaknoll. Every fall she came to a



neighbor's yard to harvest the seeds of a gigantic bleeding heart, and she was never daunted when they failed to germinate as she'd hoped. Using grow-lights in her basement (which had a ceiling lowered by dozens of swags of flowers and greens drying for the flower arrangements she created), she began the long process of sprouting the thousands of seeds that would eventually become plants for the GREEN Garden Fair. Her knowledge rivaled any greenhouse manager's when it came to the perils and rewards of nurturing fragile seedlings until they were sturdy enough for their temporary winter homes in her garden and those of other volunteers. The GREEN Garden Fair held each May was a reunion of sorts for Marilyn, as crowded flats of her "babies," which had grown into healthy, mature flowering plants, were carried into Carver-Hawkeye Arena for the yearly plant sale.

Marilyn's busy life showed little sign of slowing down even after her "retirement" as newsletter editor. Her unique contributions to GREEN projects continued, with the starting of perennial seeds each spring, caring for line-outs in her garden, potting up plants for the fair, organizing perennial-booth tasks, speaking at educational

GREEN garden forums, and faithfully attending and contributing to the monthly Steering Committee meetings. Even as these activities continued, Marilyn's life without the newsletter duties was able to include visits to children and grandchildren in distant states and other trips with her husband to various places around the globe. Her own lovely yard and perennial garden, which she originally planned with Gretchen Harshbarger, continued to flourish until she and her husband, John Paul Long, moved to Oaknoll. Even after the move she continued to be involved with GREEN projects, her church (and its landscaping), as well as a local garden club, and her nurturing of both people and plants was never-ending. Marilyn approached life with joy, precision, and a clear sense of purpose.

The professionalism of the newsletter you are reading now is Marilyn's legacy. Those of us who followed in her editing footsteps knew that she would be tracking our progress as we all do that of our gardens, every year, spring and fall, without fail. Marilyn's presence will be greatly missed.



Sunday Garden Forums continued from page 1

FEBRUARY 13, 2011 (2:00-5:00)—JAMIE BEYER, "GETTING EXCITED ABOUT WATER GARDENING AND WATER FEATURES" AND "LANDSCAPING WITH STONE"

Jamie Beyer is a Lifetime Master Gardener from the Ames/Boone area. He founded the Central Iowa Water Garden Association and has been a sought after speaker on ponds and water features for years. He combines his experience with his Master's Degree in Fish and Wildlife Biology to become a uniquely qualified presenter. Jamie's other passion is stone. He will teach us how to incorporate stone into the home landscape, discuss the proper way to place stone, and share his secrets on moving the "big ones." Jamie will begin with his presentation on water features and follow with his talk on stone. Come late or leave early if you are interested in one of these subjects. Times flies when Jamie is at the podium.

MARCH 6, 2011 –DEB WALSER, "PERENNIALS FOR 2011"

Deb Walser is a Master Gardener from Linn County. She has worked for years at a Cedar Rapids Nursery specializing in Perennials. You may have heard her on Saturday and Wednesdays on the radio answering questions from listeners on a broad range of gardening topics. We are bringing Deb back because she was so well received at a previous forum on perennials. Deb will also discuss the proper time and method to cut back perennials for best results.

APRIL 10, 2011—GARY WHITTENBAUGH "CONIFER COMPANIONS"

The Garden Forum Committee heard this presentation in Ottumwa last spring and loved it. Gary has been gardening for over 35 years with emphasis on dwarf, conifers. In this presentation he goes beyond conifers to plants that work well in any garden. We are excited to have Gary share his good photography and his knowledge of gardening with you. He is an engaging speaker and a kind and knowledgeable person.

GREEN Garden Tour 2010: A Day of Garden Glory and a Surprise

Six expert gardeners, four unique gardens, hundreds of enthralled visitors—and one brief late-in-the-day rainstorm—combined for yet another successful GREEN Garden Tour on July 12, 2010.

Holly Carver and Lain Adkins knew from the start that they wanted to garden with native Iowa plants, and after very few years in their house they have thriving areas of grasses, blooming forbs, and magnificent



Garden of Holly Carver & Lain Adkins



Garden of Susan Craig



Garden of Dick & Marty Shepardson



Garden of Michael Lensing

trumpet vines. Full sun in their yard not only provides the best possible conditions for plants that evolved in the tallgrass prairie, but it amplifies the bright colors and charming designs of both their garden's art and its seating areas. Visitors were intrigued by the way they've combined a productive vegetable garden, Holly's favorite zinnias, and broad meadowy areas that were just beginning to show their full midsummer glory.

Susan Craig's large lot has space for everything a gardener could wish for—a patch of herbs, areas of shade, and an extravagantly blooming sunny border that called out a welcome to tour-goers from a block away. Her neighborhood, including her own house and yard, was hit hard by Iowa City's recent tornado, but her gardening expertise and energy have made evidence of the damage invisible. Susan admits to being the sort of gardener who finds plants she likes and then a place for them—and her early summer purchases on this year's Project GREEN nursery trip to Wisconsin were happily at home in July.

shrubs, and their combinations of foliage varying from deep maroon to grayed blue made their yard a demonstration of garden skill.

Michael Lensing shared his compact garden—and, when it rained, the inside of his house, hung with pictures collected on numerous tours. His garage, complete with a chandelier and a large mural inside, painted by Steve Atkins, looks like a charming guesthouse from the outside, framed by an arbor. Michael says his garden changes often as he moves small trees and plants to balance new additions or provide happier growing conditions. A pond, pots of flowering plants, jars of water pouring on to a gravel bed, along with Michael's enthusiasm, made his garden a special stop for guests. The intimate charm of his yard was on a scale many visitors thought they themselves could replicate.

Mike's car, parked in the alley with windows wide open during the rain, provided a surprising end that didn't at all dim the pleasures of a delightful garden tour.

GREEN Grants Funding Provided to Many Local Schools for Landscape Improvement

The GREEN grants program has seen a flurry of activity since last spring. Ongoing projects include the fundraising phase of implementation at North Central Junior High, to be followed next spring by hardscaping and the planting of columnar trees along the front face of the building. After a successful spring campus clean-up day, a massive volunteer-plus-professional effort will occur at City High School on October 9th, with several dozen new trees to be planted on the front campus. Both of these projects have been carefully planned and are eagerly awaited.

The second year of the kindergarten curriculum study of trees is being implemented, with each kindergarten classroom in the district choosing and planting and adopting "their" tree on each of the elementary campuses. The trees have been made available through a cooperative effort between the ICCSD Foundation, Project GREEN, and Iowa City Landscaping.

In May, trees were planted in two areas at Van Allen Elementary to define the borders of the playground and to provide shade on the south side of the building. In June, Penn Elementary in North Liberty partnered with a "Trees for Kids" grant and Project GREEN to refresh

the campus landscape with many new trees and other plantings.

Over the summer, a major upgrade to the landscape on the east and southeast sides of Longfellow Elementary was undertaken to eliminate an increasing erosion problem and to provide a new pathway on which students may walk from the south (front) of the school to the east playground and sidewalk. Decorative plants and shrubs were added on both sides of the east side entrance to the building and at the steep southeast corner of the front campus.

West High School organized an intensive spring clean-up and planting day last May, involving students, parents, staff, and other volunteers from the area. Volunteers pruned, mulched, planted, and divided and moved existing plants. New planting beds along the new front entrance to the school were filled with divisions of plants from other areas of the campus along with new perennials purchased in cooperation with Project GREEN.

The GREEN grants program continues to support and be inspired by the energies and visions of many individuals and community groups working with and for our local schools!

Project GREEN Donations September 1,2009 - August 31,2010

\$99.00 or less

Adams, Leah & Harold in memory of Marilyn Long
Anonymous
Allen, Diane in memory of Marilyn Long
Ashton McKusick, Joye in memory of Ned L. Ashton
Atkinson, Alice & Ken
Bagford, Jack & Ann in memory of Ethel Howe
Baumbach, Janice in memory of Marilyn Long
Beer, Martin & Jo
Bell, JoAnn & James
Berry, Glorine
Blair, Jean, & Brian Christianson
Bourret, Dwayne & Joan L.Z.
Braddock, Carol
Brennan, Jacqueline
Burger, Shirley
Buss, Barbara
Buswell, Patricia & Don
Cadoret, Jeanne
Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital in memory of Marilyn Long
Caplan, Richard & Ellen in memory of Marilyn Long
Carpenter, Janice
Carstenson, Jim & Connie in memory of Marilyn Long
Catalano, Cosmo & Jo in memory of Marilyn Long
Clancy, Margaret in memory of Marilyn Long
Clifton, Katherine
College Green Guest House
Curry, David, & Donna Friedman in memory of Irene Ayer

Dahms, Terry
Doyle, John & Frances
Elder, Stanley & Betty in memory of Marilyn Long
Eldridge, Karen
Elliott, C. W.
Elliott, Maggie
Falconer, Joan
Fedderson, Ann & Dick in memory of Marilyn Long
Fincham, Linda in memory of Marilyn Long
Floyd, Lucile
Fuller, Jim & Karole
Gelfand, Lawrence & Miriam in memory of Marilyn Long
Gerleman, David & Joyce
Goplerud, Eileen in memory of Marilyn Long
Hanson, Barbara in memory of Marilyn Long
Hartwig, Sally
Herring, Pat in memory of Marilyn Long
Hoogerwerf, Lou Rae in memory of Marilyn Long
Houghton, Joan
Jakobsen, Jane & James
Jindrich, Joan
Jones, Joni
Kasik, John & Sherle
Keller, Loren
Kelly, Shirley
Kennedy, Nancy in memory of Marilyn Long
Keyser, Maggie in memory of Marilyn Long
Knapp, Jacqueline F. to honor Nancy Seiberling
Knutson, Gene & Carole
Koeppel, Tom in memory of Marilyn Long
Kottemann, Nan
Kruse, Gregg & Louise in memory of Marilyn Long
Kruse, Mary Lea & Dick to honor A.K. Traw
Kuntz, Ken & Ruth in memory of Marilyn Long
Lach, Carol in memory of Marilyn Long
Larsen, Rosemary
LaVelle, Bill & Loretta
Lawton, Bill & Patsy
Leff, Joyce & Phil in memory of Marilyn Long
Leidal, Becky
Lindaman, Arnold & Lois
Lonngren, Karl & Vicki
Madsen, Douglas & Joanne
Maynard, Jim L & Mary Lou in memory of Marilyn Long
McGuire, Linda
McGurk-Eicher, Marita
McGurk, Ramona
Mears, Julia & Phillip
Meis, Gerald
Mixdorf, Mary
Moriarty, Françoise in memory of Marilyn Long
Nauseef, Bill & Judy
Neely, Marilyn
Neff, John & Darlene in memory of Marilyn Long
Nelson, Ted & Margaret
Neuzil, Julie & Bill
New Pioneer Coop
Noble, Mary
Nordquist, Gerald & Carol
Norton, Carrie
Oberman, Joyce in memory of Marilyn Long
Oehmke, Theresa in memory of Marilyn Long
Patrick, Genie & Joseph
Paul, Dorothy
Penno, Bonnie
Perrin, Marlene
Pfeifer, Shirley

Phair, Elaine
Powers, Dr. William J & Mrs. Nancy
Prediger, Kay & Dale
Randall, Alberta in memory of Marilyn Long
Ringgenberg, Helen & Clayton
Robertson, Vona in memory of Marilyn Long
Rowley, Charity
Rowley, Elizabeth
Scholz, Peggy in memory of Marilyn Long
Schulz, Rudy in memory of Charlotte Schulz
Seery, Clyde & Kay
Shreeves, Elizabeth
Simonson, Alice in memory of Wendell Simonson
Soderberg, Suzanne in memory of Marilyn Long
Sopher, John & Anne
Soper, Dr. Robert & Helene
Spratt, Jim in memory of Marilyn Long
Spaziani, Carol
Steele, Oliver & Joy
Stewart, Pamela in memory of Marilyn Long
Summerwill, Joey in memory of Marilyn Long
Summy, Tom & Oliver, Suzie
Taylor, Elanor & Dick
Tellin, Art
Tomanek, Robert & Rita
Tucker, Joan
VanAllen Horan, Marti in memory of Marion Settelmayer
Vernon, Rhoda in memory of Marilyn Long
Vorwald, Carol
Walker, Jean
Walker, George & Carolyn
Walter, Brian & Kay
Wehrheim, Nancy in memory of M. Helen Richardson Wehrheim
Wegman, Marcia
Welsh, Bob & Eunice in memory of Marilyn Long
White, J Patrick & Betty
Wilkening, Marianne in memory of Marilyn Long
Williamson, Harold
Wilson, Larry T. & Mary Matthew
Winokur, Betty in memory of Marilyn Long
Wolf, Robert & Erma
Wolken, Sue

\$100.00-\$249.00

Anonymous
Anderson, Julia M.
Boenker, Don, Jon, Susan, Jane, Elizabeth in memory of Marilyn Long
Branson, Fredine & Dan
Braverman, Phyllis
Buckley, Charles in memory of Barbara Buckley
Byington, Helen & Bill to honor Joan & Cindy Parsons
Caplan, Richard & Ellen
Chappell, Karen & Wallace
Christensen, Jim & Carol
Conger, Syndy M. & Jim F.
Davis, Shari in memory of Elizabeth Morris
DePuma, Richard in memory of Ann V. York
Eskin, Sandra & Gerald
Fahr, Elizabeth in memory of Marilyn Long
Fieselmann, Randee & John
Finn, Jackie in memory of Marilyn Long
Four Seasons Garden Club in memory of Marilyn Long
Gardner, Carolyn & Jim
Gustafson, Kay, & Dan Dakins to honor Jim Maynard
Hahn, Tom & Laura

PROJECT GREEN THANKS ALL CONTRIBUTORS.
As this newsletter clearly illustrates, contributions come in many diverse forms: garden labor, volunteer energy, artistic talents, as well as dollars. Not everyone is artistic or a gardener, and many people have trouble finding spare time to volunteer. If you wish to make a monetary donation to Project GREEN, please use the enclosed pledge card. Your gift will support existing and future projects which promote community enhancement through education, innovation, and beautification. We are most grateful to our loyal donors who take the time each year to send their donation to Project GREEN. Your support, along with proceeds from the GREEN Garden Fair each spring, enable us to continue our efforts.

Hammond, Donna in memory of Marilyn Long
 Hayes, James
 Hines, Bill & Jean
 Hinrichs, Charlene
 Hobart, Thomas & Jeri
 Hoherz, Monica
 Holland, Joe & Nancy
 Hoover, H.D. & Myrene in memory of Al & Freda Hieronymus
 Hoppin, Richard A. & Margery E. to honor Bernadine Knight
 Hoppin, Marge & Dick in memory of Anne Glennister
 Hubel, Jan & Kenn in memory of Gretchen Harshbarger
 Hubel, Jan & Kenn in honor of Nancy Seiberling
 Kerber, Linda & Richard in honor of Nancy Seiberling
 Klink, William & Judith
 Koza, John & Patricia
 Kruse, Mary Lea & Dick to honor Melanie Hauptert
 Lensing Funeral & Cremation
 Lindberg, James & Sara in memory of Abigail Van Allen
 Mather, Marlyn
 McCabe, Yvonne in memory of Marilyn Long
 Menninger, John
 Morgan, Reese & Jo
 Myatt, Jan, & Steve Price
 Nereim, Thomas & Kathryn
 Nicknish, Tom & Barbara to honor Nancy Seiberling
 Nicknish, Tom & Barbara to honor Fern Allison & Barb Gartner
 Nothnagle, John & Gail
 Novick, Naomi
 Osborne, Bill & Marilyn
 Pagliai, Armond & Polly
 Paul, Doug & Linda
 Randall, Alberta
 Ray, Dottie in memory of Dorothy Thompson
 Ringgenberg, Clayton & Helen
 Rossi, Helen & Nick to honor Pam Stewart
 Scholz, Peggy
 Schroeder, Larry & Judy
 Sifford, Harlan
 Slager, Marcia
 Smith, Isabelle
 Smith, J. Montofery
 Smith, Jeanne
 Staley, John & Sally
 Stang, Al, & Sharon Kay
 Stay, Barbara Ann
 Stehbens, Barbara & Jim
 Stewart, Pamela

Stutsman, Roger & Sally in memory of Michael Stutsman
 Summerwill, Joan
 Summerwill, Kristin
 Tucker, Dick & Buffie
 USBank
 Vernon, Rhoda
 Welsh, Bob & Eunice in memory of John Paul Long
 Walters, Jim & Chris
 Wiley, Josephine
 Wilson, Charlotte in memory of Elsie H. Moran
 Ziegler, Ekhard

\$250.00-\$499.00

Gantz, Mary & Bruce to honor Carole & Gene Knutson, Nancy & Don Ross, Anne & Chuck Hesse, Sue Mullins
 Hesse, Chuck & Anne to honor Bernie Knight
 Leff Law Firm in-kind legal services
 Luhman, Lowell & Joan
 Rindy, Inc gift-in-kind
 Sayre, Hutha & Robert
 Shannon, Mrs. Phyllis P. to honor Diane Allen
 Skaugstad, Chuck & Marilyn
 Smith, Connie in memory of Keith & Emmie Lou Hora
 Strauss, John & Susan
 Zlatnik, Frank & Gail to honor Nancy Seiberling

\$500.00-\$999.00

Allen, Judy gift-in-kind
 Barker, Ed & Ethel
 Fahr, Elizabeth to honor Nancy Seiberling
 Fowles, Don & Dorothy
 Leff, Joyce & Phil
 McCabe, Yvonne to honor Anne & Chuck Hesse
 Noyes, Russell & Martha
 USBank
 Wilson, Herb & Janice

\$1000.00 or more

Willis, Craig & Nancy/ Security Abstract
 MidAmerican Energy Trees Please Grant

OTHER IN-KIND GIFTS

Frohwein Office Plus
 Hartig Drug
 Hills Bank and Trust Company
 Hy-Vee (Eastside)
 Iowa City Landscaping
 Walmart
 A special thank you to Quality Care for its volunteer Earth Day project of pruning and landscape cleanup along Highway 6 East in Iowa City!

Gilbert Street and Highway 6 intersection will be focus of new project in Spring 2011.



This Concolor Fir (*Abies concolor*), located within the landscaping at the northeast corner of Highway 6 and Gilbert Street, is obscured by overgrown and declining vegetation. Project GREEN plans to rejuvenate landscaping at this corner, which will expose views to this lovely specimen, next spring.

Project GREEN and Yoga: A New and Rewarding Team

On November 5-7, 2010, the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Iowa City will be filled with hundreds of people attending the first ever Iowa City Yoga Festival. The organizer of this extraordinary event is James Miller, director of Treehouse Yoga Studio in Iowa City. Its beneficiary will be Project GREEN.

Festival-goers will have many options for classes, events, and yoga demonstrations, as well as 42 different workshop opportunities with renowned teachers.

In keeping with the entertainment theme of the festival, MC Yogi from Port Reyes, CA, will perform yoga-inspired world hip-hop music

on Saturday, November 6, at 8:00 P.M. This is an open-to-the-public benefit concert for Project GREEN.

James Miller feels the unique flair of the festival is a perfect fit with the Iowa City community. Project GREEN, with its focus on beautification and environmental awareness, is the chosen local organization to benefit from the festival.

To learn more about this exciting event, check out the website, lowacityyogafestival.com. We hope to see many of you at the festival in November!

2010 Project GREEN Parkway Maintenance Program

As the 2010 Project GREEN parkway maintenance program draws to a close and the fall season approaches, the parkways continue to provide passersby with seasonal interest and beauty.

The parkway maintenance program, started in 2001, supplements City efforts to care for these important entranceways into Iowa City. The parkways in the program include: Melrose Avenue Medians (from the west entrance of West High School to Camp Cardinal Road and from Emerald Street to the West Entrance of West High School); N. Dubuque Street (from Foster Road to I-80, from Taft Speedway to Foster Road, and the plantings at the northeast corner at Park Road Bridge intersection); Iowa Avenue Medians (from Gilbert Street to Lucas Street). Areas impacted from the flood of 2008 were not included in the program. Maintenance work includes: replenishing mulched areas; at times, re-edging planting areas; spring clean-up; monthly maintenance (weeding, pruning, insect and other pest control); some mowing; and at times, tree removal.

Although plant material chosen for the parkways are low maintenance and include both indigenous and ornamental species, they still require care. Project GREEN decided to develop their own written specifications to describe to the contractor the seasonal tasks to perform and their associated targeted deadlines. For this year's program, specifications and bidding documents were prepared in January and February, these were based upon the many years of maintenance specifications and direction Project GREEN member, Jim Maynard, ASLA has provided for the parkways. The project was let for bid in early March. Rindy, Inc. – Tree and Turf Care of West Branch, Iowa was awarded the project in late March. Rindy, Inc. has provided timely, responsive, landscape maintenance services through a challenging year.

As 2010 marks one of Iowa's wettest years, Project GREEN has seen plant material both flourish and decline with this excess moisture. Sadly, along Iowa Avenue, a specimen Sargent Flowering Crabapple succumbed to all of the rain, and had to be removed. Its northern-most limb, long ago supported with a brace, leaned out and over west-bound Iowa Avenue potentially causing a hazard. Upon closer inspection, Jim Maynard noted that the tree at one point in time had been hit by a car causing a crack where moisture entered causing the base of the tree to rot. Jim noted that this old Sargent Crab predated the original median landscaping installed in 1968. (See photo)

Another challenge with the excess moisture this year included a greater amount of weed growth. Rindy, Inc. applied a pre-emergent weed control during the early spring, and then re-applied it during the mid summer. In addition to this, Rindy, Inc hand-weeded many



Top: Old Sargent Crabapple lost on Iowa Avenue. Bottom photos: Trees have flourished this year with all the rain.

areas throughout the season. One area along the east side of North Dubuque Street which is continually wet will be corrected when North Dubuque Street is improved. Meanwhile Rindy, Inc will address this weed problem with a weed-whacker.

In some cases, the excess moisture of 2010 has caused trees and shrubs to flourish. Examples include the following: the Amur Maples, Black Tupelos, Red Spire Maple, 'Autumn Purple' White Ash, 'Autumn Blaze' Maple, 'Kallay' Juniper, Serbian Spruce, White Pine and Black Hills Spruce, along North Dubuque Street; Japanese Tree Lilac along Iowa Avenue; and Lindens along Melrose Avenue. (See photos)

Fall maintenance work along the parkways includes three maintenance visits to each of the parkway sites. One visit will occur between September 21 and September 28; one between October 19 and October 26; and the final visit between November 9 and November 16. During the last two visits, Rindy, Inc., in addition to providing the typical maintenance tasks of weed control, plant inspection, and clean-up will provide fall leaf clean-up where mulch areas will be thoroughly cleaned-up, and during this last visit winter protection will be installed on all trees 4 inches or less in caliper with tree wrap. Tree protection from deer will also be installed.

Project GREEN (PG) recycles and reuses plastic nursery containers for potting plants to sell at each spring's Garden Fair. Please bring all pots you would like to recycle and donate to Project GREEN to Ted and Kay Carpenter's house, 612 Seventh Avenue, Coralville. Place your pots in a garbage bag and leave them in front of our garage anytime.

Please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. PG recycles 4", 5", 6" and 1 gallon pots
2. PG recycles sturdy plastic pots from the greenhouse/garden center industry. Your flimsy plastic pots or packs, plastic food containers, and plastic or clay patio planters will need to be recycled through another venue.
3. We love receiving clean pots placed in garbage bags.

Thank you and we look forward to recycling your pots!!



www.projectgreen.org

Name That Tree!

A Quiz Before Fall Planting

by Anne Hesse and AK Traw

Question 1: What native tree exhibits the form of a pin oak in its early years and has a consistent yellow/orange/scarlet fall color change?

Question 2: What small (40 ft. and more) native tree has white, bell-shaped, pendulous flowers in late April to early May, followed by light brown, parchment-like, dry fruit pods in September?

Question 3: What large native tree (70 ft. and greater), often described as noble in form, has a mature short gray trunk resembling elephant hide?

Question 4: What oak tree has acorns with a fringe of bristles around a cap that nearly encompasses the nutshell? It was common tree in the pre-pioneer forest.

Question 5: What tree has a fruit that is a one- or two-inch-long capsule, broadly round with a prickly cover? Holding the “nut” in your pocket is said to bring good luck.

Question 6: What tree has a fruit that is a reddish brown, flat, leathery legume, six to ten inches long? Seeds were used by the pioneers as a coffee substitute.

Question 7: What tree has white blossoms in the spring that attract honeybees? Venetian blinds and musical instruments are made from the wood.

Answers on page 8.

Praise for City Trees

On boulevards,
in parks, punctuating
yards, poking
up near parking lots,
in garden centers
with roots balled
in nets like
live eels, trees
decorate
our daily lives,
doctor our air
with oxygen,
send out scents
of exuberance
in the orchid bloom
of catalpa's spring.

Let's talk quietly
about death
during the dormancy
of winter when
deciduous trees
show a stunning
nakedness.
Pale orphans
of birch stand by
well-to-do
evergreens
wearing their
pelted wraps.

Trees are all
in this together
with us,
working at all
times
for health,
happiness,
accreting their secret
rings of age,
discussing stories
with the wind,
welcoming
rain like a guest
from afar,
helping us live
with our arms
open
and our anchors
deep.

Margaret Hesse is the author of three books of poetry, including *Milk and Tides*. Although she lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, she has ties to Iowa City through her sister, Ellen Buchanan.

Oriental Bittersweet: A Silent Monster in Your Backyard or Woodland

There are a variety of non-native plants that are commonly used for landscape and ornamental purposes that have escaped into our native woodlands and backyard natural areas. One plant of serious concern in Johnson County and other portions of eastern Iowa is Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). This plant can kill other plants, including mature trees, by smothering them and eliminating available sunlight, and it has already destroyed some small wooded areas and backyard natural areas in Johnson and Linn Counties.

Oriental bittersweet is very difficult to eliminate, so it is critical to identify it when it first arrives on your property and the population is small. One plant in this area that can be confused with Oriental bittersweet is American or native bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*). American bittersweet has usually been found along fencerows or wooded edges, but over the last five to ten years, with the aggressiveness of the Oriental variety, it has become much less common. When comparing these two plants, look for a few key differences:

- American bittersweet grows to heights of 20 to 30 feet, while Oriental can reach up to 60 feet. The actual vine of Oriental bittersweet can reach diameters of 3 to 5 inches and larger, while the American is usually an inch or less in diameter. American is not very aggressive, so you will find just a few scattered plants; the Oriental vine covers everything in sight and propagates freely.
- American bittersweet produces its flowers and fruit only at the ends of individual branches (see *bottom photo*), and Oriental produces flowers and fruit at each leaf axil along the branch (see *top photo*). This means the American generally produces small numbers of seeds on each plant, and Oriental will have large numbers of seeds all over the plant. Also, the color of the capsule around the American fruit is orange, and the Oriental capsule is yellow. For more information on identifying the differences between these two plants, go to: http://www.gisc.usgs.gov/_files/factsheets/2007-2%20Identifying%20Bittersweet.pdf

The best way to manage Oriental bittersweet is to find it early and remove all plants, including their root systems, by hand. Often the population of this plant is so significant when it is first found that pulling alone is not enough to minimize its impact, and specific herbicides can be used to minimize the plant population. For more information on management options for Oriental bittersweet go to <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ceor1.htm>

Mark Vitosh, District Forester, Iowa DNR, Mark.Vitosh@dnr.iowa.gov



Flower clusters of Oriental bittersweet are located at the axils of individual leaves.



Fruit of American bittersweet is located only at the end of individual stems.

PROJECT GREEN

Civic Center

410 E. Washington St.

Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Return Service Requested



Please plant trees

Mark Your Calendars!!

**FEBRUARY 13, 2011
(2:00-5:00)**

JAMIE BEYER, "GETTING
EXCITED ABOUT WATER
GARDENING AND
WATER FEATURES" AND
"LANDSCAPING WITH
STONE"

MARCH 6, 2011 (2:00-4:00)
DEB WALSER, "PERENNIALS
FOR 2011"

APRIL 10, 2011 (2:00-4:00)
GARY WHITTENBAUGH
"CONIFER COMPANIONS"

The 2011 Garden Forums are located at
the Iowa City Public Library, Room A.

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