

News Letter

GROW TO
REACH
ENVIRONMENTAL
EXCELLENCE
NOW

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

**PROJECT GREEN**

PUBLISHED IN EARLY SPRING AND LATE FALL

SPRING 2012

Number 43 Coming Soon! GREEN Garden Fair May 5, 9–11:30 a.m. Carver-Hawkeye Arena

By Fern Allison

Project GREEN's Forty-third Annual GREEN Garden Fair is almost here! Mark your calendars for **May 5, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Hawkins Drive in Iowa City.** With winter having been so mild this year, plants will really be ready to go into the ground. Bring your checkbook or cash, and be prepared to buy some great additions to your garden!

Our volunteers have been busy digging and potting many new plants this year in preparation for the fair. We will have booths for sunny perennials, shade perennials, hostas, trees and shrubs, and groundcovers, as well as the wonderful yard art from Judy Allen and something new this year—orchids. All the perennial plants have been locally grown by many expert gardeners, so they will thrive in our environment. Look for the booth banners over the sale tables or use the informational maps at the door to find what you are looking for. If you need a

rest during or after shopping, leave your plants with the plantsitters and enjoy coffee and treats at the café set up by the Leaf Restaurant.

Got questions? At the "Ask the Experts" table, information about plant selection, gardening, tree pruning, composting, and wildlife will be available from Johnson County Master Gardeners, the city forester, and representatives from the Iowa City Landfill. And with our newest addition of orchids, the Orchid Society will provide orchids and experts to help you learn exactly how to care for these beautiful plants.

As always, proceeds from the GREEN Garden Fair will be used to help beautify our city and the community's schools. This year's fair income will go toward landscaping in Iowa City's newest park, the Terry Trueblood Recreation Area.

Save **May 5th** and join us at the GREEN Garden Fair!

Terry Trueblood Recreation Area

By Mike Moran

During the May 5 GREEN Garden Fair, attendees will be able to view plans, schematics, and planting schemes for the park lodge project at the Terry Trueblood Recreation Area. Poster boards and handouts will be available for distribution, and Parks and Recreation Director Mike Moran will be on hand for discussion.

Fair-goers who are interested in donating to the fundraising efforts will have the opportunity to have their names on the donor wall of the lodge. All donations are tax deductible.

GARDEN FAIR COORDINATORS

Barb Gartner	(h)338-5781 (w)335-3476 barbara-gartner@uiowa.edu
Fern Allison	338-8580 frdallison@msn.com
Tom Koeppel	(h)351-2014 (w)335-1053 tkkoeppel@mchsi.com

PLANTSITTERS

Gene Knutson	338-8442 gene@mchsi.com
Judy Cilek	354-4631 judycilek@hotmail.com

SHADE PERENNIALS, SHADE GROUND COVERS, AND HOSTAS

Anne Hesse	337-3796 annehuck2@mchsi.com
Carole Knutson	338-8442 cknuts@mchsi.com
Sue Terveer-Mullins	339-0984 suziemull@aol.com
Nancy Ross	337-5436 therosses@mchsi.com

TREES, SHRUBS, VINES

Kasey Jurgensen	330-7935 sjurgen41@aol.com
Joanie Parsons	351-2008 joan3887@aol.com
Carol Christensen	338-3837 cachris@avalon.net

SUNNY PERENNIALS

Shirley Lekin	338-0041 shirleylekin@q.com
Suzie Treloar	624-7175 rscalt@aol.com

VISUAL

Fern Allison	338-8580 frdallison@msn.com
--------------	--------------------------------

INFORMATION

Karen Chappel	341-3774 krchpp@aol.com
---------------	----------------------------

FINANCE

Sandy Joynt	337-7378 Sandra-Joynt@uiowa.edu
Marilyn Shurr	338-5344 mshurr2407@msn.com
Joanne Tigges	626-3057 jotigges@southslope.net
Pat Wells	354-3264

PUBLICITY

Linda Schreiber	828-4323 linschreiber@gmail.com
-----------------	------------------------------------

SOIL AND CONTAINERS

Ted & Kay Carpenter	351-7634 TCarpe8615@msn.com
---------------------	--------------------------------

Financial Contributions, Endowment Fund, and You

The financial needs of Project GREEN are growing steadily. Each year we spend more than \$20,000 to provide for the upkeep and maintenance on our previous projects such as the Iowa Avenue and Melrose Avenue medians, and the North Dubuque parkway. We continue to provide GREEN Grant landscaping funds to our community schools, and recently those grants have sometimes been as much as \$15,000 in one year. And, we are always seeking new opportunities to provide beautification and landscaping of public areas in our community which would otherwise not be funded. Our most recent commitment is \$75,000 for landscaping in the Terry Trueblood Recreation Area.

Project GREEN is proud that we continue to be an all-volunteer organization. We could not exist without the support and generosity of our contributors and volunteers. In order to continue funding new projects and providing for ongoing maintenance, it seems prudent to build an endowment fund to supplement our general operating fund, to provide for future needs. Project GREEN is exploring participation as a "Partner in Philanthropy" with the Community Foundation of Johnson County. Contributions to an endowment fund would be an investment in the enhanced natural beauty of our community public spaces and school grounds for many years to come. Contributions through the Community Foundation of Johnson County would also qualify donors for an Endow Iowa Tax Credit, which provides a 25 percent tax credit against Iowa state income taxes in addition to a normal federal charitable income tax deduction. Project GREEN and the Community Foundation of Johnson County are both registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations.

We do not intend for an endowment fund to supplant or take away from our regular operating funds, and thus we would hope that our generous donors would maintain their regular donations to our general fund, and supplement that with a special gift to help build our endowment. And as always, Project GREEN is most grateful for charitable bequests in Wills and memorial and honorary gifts. More information will be forthcoming soon; contact cparsons@icialaw.com for more information.



Project GREEN was invited to make a presentation at the "Color Iowa Clinic" sponsored by Our Iowa Magazine, held on March 27, 2012, at Reiman Gardens in Ames. Pictured are Project GREEN Co-Presidents Cindy Parsons and Diane Allen, with Roy Reiman, Publisher of Our Iowa

magazine. The purpose of the clinic was to encourage residents and citizen groups across Iowa to beautify their communities with colorful plantings.

Groundcover Booth

(Shade and Sun)

If you are looking for plants to fill in an area of your garden and provide protection from erosion and drought, make sure to shop the Groundcover Booth, located between the Shade and Sunny Perennial Booths. Popular groundcovers include ajuga, pachysandra, vinca minor, dwarf Solomon's seal, European and wild ginger, sweet woodruff, violets, and sedum. Some groundcovers will be sold by the flat.

The Shade Booth is always looking for volunteers! Think about joining the fun and volunteer to donate hostas this coming fall, or dig and pot hostas and shade perennials next spring.

Please call or email the Shade coordinators if you would like to become a "Shady" volunteer. (See Shade Perennials contact information on page 1).

Orchids at the Fair

By Andrew Coghill

The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society will be at the GREEN Garden Fair this year to sell orchid plants in bloom. A variety will be available, including Phalaenopsis (the moth orchid) and intergeneric hybrids. Sales will raise funds for the society's first orchid sale and show, scheduled for October 6-7, 2012, and a portion of the proceeds will also benefit Project GREEN. Be on the lookout for more information about the society's orchid sale event in the months ahead.

The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society is a small group of people with a big love of orchids. Their goals are four-fold: conservation of native orchid species and orchids worldwide; education of society members and the public on orchid-related topics; competition at regional orchid shows; and socialization with other orchid enthusiasts.

Trees, Shrubs, and Vines

This year the Trees and Shrubs area will offer several connoisseur plants. We are featuring both Japanese maples and pagoda dogwoods that have been raised in an Iowa City garden. A third treat will be holly sold in male and female pairs to assure bloom and fruit. If you are looking for black raspberries this year, you won't be disappointed. We have a good supply! Visit us for redbuds, tulip trees, ginkgos, Kentucky coffee trees, golden rain trees, spirea, and lilacs galore—both named French hybrids and old fashioned plus many more varieties of trees and shrubs and vines.

Downtown Planting: An Invitation to Volunteers

By Linda Schreiber

Project GREEN invites donations of sunny perennials to the downtown area plant project. Volunteers with plants to contribute, and those who want to help with the project, should contact Linda Schreiber at lnschreiber@gmail.com. The downtown area, especially along Clinton and Washington Streets, will be featured in the late afternoon as the last stop on the annual GREEN Garden Tour on June 24, 2012. The downtown area plant project was started in cooperation with the City of Iowa City in 2008.

Sunny Perennials

By Lorie Leo

If you have a fairly sunny area that needs more visual interest, come to the Sunny Perennials Booth for inspiration and information. We always have a wide selection of herbaceous flowering plants born and raised right here by local gardeners just like you, and you'll get some helpful pointers free of charge.

Each year, we hear more and more from GREEN Garden Fair shoppers about their problems with deer. We are offering our usual plethora of beautiful perennial flowering plants this year, but for those plagued by the hoofed Midnight Munchers, we have made a special effort to stock several that are likely to survive the onslaught.



The sunny perennial volunteers show off their garden gloves after a fun morning of potting plants.

For deer-resistant spring bloom, we'll have some wonderful peonies in vibrant colors, and six or more different cultivars of Siberian iris. (Don't you love that vertical foliage in the garden, long after the blooms are gone!?) The deer don't like summer-blooming monarda (bee balm), but the hummingbirds sure do, so try some *Monarda* 'Petite Delight,' a rose-lavender cultivar that is a user-friendly 18"-24" tall, with a reputation for mildew-resistance. For textural interest, try some "furry" lamb's ear, *Stachys grandiflora* 'Superba.' It is useful as a front edging, and children love to pet those soft leaves, the plant's best feature. The ornamental grasses are generally ignored by deer, so *Miscanthus* cultivars like 'Morning Light' are great additions to the landscape. As that name suggests, many grasses are showiest when planted where they catch the rays of the early morning or late day sun. Mature clumps add great sculptural interest that persists all winter. Try one of our *Veronica* 'Darwin's Blue' in the foreground of your garden. Growing only 12"-16" tall, it's a great way to repeat the blues of those giant back-row delphiniums. One good plant of *Nepeta* (catmint) 'Walker's Low,' with its grayed foliage and soft purple blooms, will make deer sniff and walk away while giving you a mound a good three feet across that will keep the surrounding weeds down all summer long.

We will have a dazzling selection of hybrid



Pictured are over 2000 sunny perennial plants lining the entrance to The Barn where volunteers gathered each Saturday to pot plants before the fair.

daylilies, as usual. So often in life, the extra special things are expensive, fragile, and rare. The more vigorous and showy a daylily is, though, the more healthy divisions we seem to have for sale. Unlike the aforementioned plants, some deer relish the taste of these. Plant them behind a fence or spray with deer repellent during the bloom season.

So whether you are looking for something tough as nails to throw in the ground so you can go golfing, or you wish to talk with one of our perennial volunteers about how to nurture something unusual and coax it into bloom, stop by the Sunny Perennials Booth and talk to one of our volunteers. Better still, think about joining our booth. You will not only learn all kinds of things about gardening in Johnson County, you'll meet the nicest, most interesting people you would never get to know otherwise—all while raising funds for Project GREEN projects.

Shade Perennials at the GREEN Garden Fair

By Sue Mullins

Shade Perennial Booth volunteers are gearing up for another busy spring. We are already potting up hundreds of varieties of hosta and digging and potting dozens of other companion shade perennials. Shoppers at the GREEN Garden Fair can choose from a vast array of high-quality, locally grown plants for the shady areas of their gardens. Hosta sizes range from mini to extra large, and colors include green, gold, blue, and variegated. Companion perennials add color and texture to the shade garden, and we will be offering many varieties, including bloodroot, jack-in-the-pulpit, bleeding heart, variegated Solomon's seal, trillium, twinleaf, Dutchman's breeches, perfoliate bellwort, shooting star, astilbe, ligularia, primroses, ferns, columbine, celandine poppy, pulmonaria, epimedium, and perennial geraniums, as well as many wildflowers.

The nice weather and early spring might make it a challenge for our volunteers to dig more mature shade plant divisions. And some of the normal bloom you might see at the GREEN Garden Fair will be finished—but rest assured that shade plants are very tough and can withstand late-growth transplants with proper planting and watering.

First photo: Shade Perennial Booth volunteers. Second photo: Knutson grandchildren's handy work sealing off (à la Red Green) a bunny home next to the shade perennial line-out bed.



www.projectgreen.org

Project GREEN Garden Tour 2012: Beauty Front and Back

Sunday, June 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$5.00 admission, 16 and under free

By Mo Harding

Our annual Project GREEN Garden Tour will feature something new this year, because garden lovers are enthusiastic about all types of gardens, large or small, new or old! One large and mature garden will be showcased on Rapid Creek Road, north of the interstate off North Dodge Street. Next up are nine neighbors on one street, White Oak Place, which is located about one mile west of Dubuque Street off Foster Road. Stroll through the neighborhood to take in its front yard garden ideas, with a couple of beautiful backyards thrown in for good measure. This is a fairly new development, and while many of the gardens are “in progress” they are not without inspiration!

As always, bring whatever you might need—good shoes, a hat or visor, sunscreen, notepaper, pen, and a water bottle.

Then round out your garden day by heading to downtown Iowa City to appreciate the five-year anniversary of planters and landscaping created by Project GREEN volunteers, led by Linda Schreiber. We will entice you with a variety of incentives, including free parking and discounted offers at several downtown restaurants. Stay tuned for complete details, which will be listed on our website and in other publicity before June 24.

And recycle! We will accept the pots that you picked up from the Project GREEN Garden Fair in May. Bring them to the tour ticket tables and volunteers will recycle them for reuse next year. For more information, see the article by Sue Mullins in this newsletter.

Linda and Edward Dykstra, 4680 Rapid Creek Road NE

Hosta fanatics, tree lovers, and kids of all ages will find this large garden irresistible, even though Linda Dykstra calls her garden “a bit of a mess!” We doubt it! This five-acre woodland property on Rapid Creek



Road has been developed since 1986 by the owner of Iowa City Landscaping. Visitors will be awed by the beautiful and mature specimens of bur oak and shagbark hickory, planted well before

the Dykstras moved in, as well as a sugar maple and other trees that have been planted for special occasions.

Hydrangeas and other mostly shade perennials are scattered throughout the hostas, and sun lovers will also find a vegetable garden. A campsite created for the Dykstras’



grandchildren is reached by a delightful little path through the woods to the edge of the timber.

Mark and Nancy McMullen, 5 White Oak Place

After maintaining an extensive garden around their home in Bettendorf for nearly 20 years, the McMullens aimed for a simpler landscape to complement their new Prairie Style home. Since June 2010 they have incorporated some of their favorite plants, including a Japanese white pine near the front porch, dwarf mugo pines, dwarf river birch, serviceberry, and several Vanderwolf pines. Hardscape accents include geodes collected from southeast Iowa during Mark’s childhood. Lantana in planters that flank the front steps add summer color.

The heavy clay soil in some parts of the yard is in striking contrast to areas that are virtually a sandbox, and because of this Nancy and Mark have lost several shrubs and trees. Only their front yard is open, because the backyard is coping with fairly new sod—and two dogs!

George and Nancy Perry, 12 White Oak Place

Built in 2006, the Perrys’ home on several acres is bordered on the north and east by a wooded ravine that provides natural privacy and the changing splendor of the seasons. Two retaining walls, planted with a variety of perennials, ease the significant drop in elevation from the street to their backyard. These areas require very little maintenance, with the exception of fall raking.

The stone walls enhance the natural beauty of the ravine, left chiefly in its native state with the addition of several trees. From their screened porch, Nancy and George have front-row seats to watch three *rubrum* maples show off their stunning autumn reds. And planted on a strip of their land along Foster Road are two ‘Valley Forge’ American elms. Remember the beautiful native populations of elm trees that were wiped out by Dutch elm disease? This variety of elm is disease-resistant.

Barbara and Brian Swick, 22 White Oak Place

Building their home and trying to landscape in the flood year of 2008, Barbara and Brian battled rain, mud, soggy ground, and intermittent drought. Not much survived that first summer. And after the tough winter of 2008–09, the variegated dogwoods and boxwoods in front of the house were the only survivors.

Much of their current landscaping was designed by Barbara to complement the contemporary lines of their house. Her minimalist aesthetic is greatly influenced by the stark desert beauty of Nevada and southern California, the Swicks’ favorite vacation destination, and much of their garden is structured by hardscaping accented by a few plantings. Since her favorite plants could not survive an Iowa winter, Barbara plants agaves, elephant ears, and oleander in pots that are brought inside once cold weather hits.

Cathy and Steve Means, 25 White Oak Place

New to the neighborhood, Cathy and Steve Means have yet to live within the beautiful gardens and resting spots created on their property. They will be marveling at their gardens right along with visitors on the tour!

www.projectgreen.org

It was Allen Coit Ransome, the former owner-designer of the home and gardens, who was the imaginative force behind the transformation of a flat corner lot into a park-like retreat. The house is surrounded by countless trees, shrubs, groundcovers, vines, grasses, annuals, and perennials, displayed around sculpted-earth undulations. Allen's genius is reflected in the bountiful displays of color, shape, form, scent, and texture incorporated throughout the gardens, as well as such whimsies as extravagant birdhouses, a meandering dry creek bed, a unique bridge-entry, and a semiprivate stone patio with a brick fireplace.

Cathy and Steve are honored to open their gates this summer and share Ransome's creations. They look forward to future seasons as trees mature, plants propagate, and sensitive garden management allows nature to flourish and delight.

Susan Wells, 40 White Oak Place

A couple of trees and several shrubs greeted Susan from her front yard when she moved here in December 2006. Her entire backyard, except for 12 feet behind the house, was woodland, which since has been cleared of some of the heavy growth.

Four years ago, Susan began her big adventure toward improving the yard, resulting in what she calls "an eclectic style." Even though faced with heavy soil, flowers have thrived all around her property in large part due to soil amendments added by her friend Jeff Cave, consisting of 1/3 cotton burr, 1/3 sheep compost and 1/3 peat humus. This mix has worked well! Behind the house, Iowa City compost was used with similar success.

This do-it-yourself yard and garden is a work in progress. Gradual improvements continue even as the deer, rabbits, and raccoons offer constant challenges.

Emily and Chris Barwacz, 57 White Oak Place

After moving in two years ago, and faced with a sloping yard from the left of the house to the right, Emily and Chris elevated the right front corner with a retaining wall. Limestone was chosen for its natural look. The front flower beds are curved on both sides of the porch to present a symmetrical look to the front of the home, because they wanted to provide a balanced look from the street. Bordering the wall is their favorite planting, creeping phlox, which lights up the area with its purple blooms in the spring.

The Barwacz's biggest challenge has been working with the clay soil in this area. Their grass is always a work in progress, plus every new planting has required composting to aid the growing process.

Because of backyard problems and frustrations, they are offering only their front yard for this year's tour. Last year they tried clearing out the back, originally a large field of weeds and shrubs. After several months of immense effort, they gave up and hired professionals to clear it, put down black dirt, and re-seed. A young and energetic couple, the Barwacz's plan a future focus on the backyard to improve the look and quality of the area their children will play in for years to come.

Pat and Gerald Meis, 62 White Oak Place

When Pat and Gerald moved into their home in June 2005, the front and side landscaping had been completed as part of the contract with the builder, but the backyard was wild woodland. They wished for a shady, non-lawn landscape that was easy-care with healthy plantings.

The couple cleared the area, designed and prepared the base for a brick walk, and then obtained professional assistance to complete the walkway and to plant three river birches. For an unpredictable look, over the years they scattered hostas, daylilies, ornamental grasses, hydrangeas, coreopsis, ferns, and other perennials throughout the garden. Each year a few annuals are added to the garden beds and to pots on the deck and patio for bright color through the summer months. A small black iron fence is a favorite recent addition.

Many of us tour-goers can relate to the Meises' claim that they are gardeners with a "very, very amateur style." But they also have a bonus, because they can enjoy their private backyard year-round from a four-season garden room at the back of their house.

Paula O. Brandt, 67 White Oak Place

Paula and the late Lowell Brandt moved from their old bungalow with an urban pocket garden in the Brown Street Historic District to their new bungalow on White Oak Place in 2007. One goal for their new home was to "make the house so cute from the street that it would make the teeth of passersby ache!" A professional landscaper developed a plan that complements the front of the house, including a small fenced patio off the screened porch. A berm on the east side of the house helped separate the backyard from the sidewalk. Professional help has continued to assist Paula with additional foundation and other plantings.

Paula enjoys changing the flowers in the window box with each season, but relies on professionals for the stunning winter display each year (we'll all have to drive by when our Iowa winter kicks in). She chooses to ignore the backyard, resigned to the fact that it belongs to the creatures—the chipmunks, skunks, raccoons, squirrels, turkeys, moles, and deer—who never let Paula forget that they were there first.

Mark and Joyce Gromko, 72 White Oak Place

When the Gromkos moved into their newly constructed home in July 2009, their lot consisted of heavy clay that required soil amendment and accommodations for drainage. The overall landscape design was worked out with professional advice and features mainly native plants and those supposedly ignored by deer and rabbits. For two years in a row, however, rabbits ate the 'Black Lace' elderberry to the ground, despite liberal doses of foul-smelling spray. Last year, a family of foxes kept the rabbits away—but now the foxes are gone, the rabbits are back, and the Gromkos are hoping some new ever-blooming lilacs will do well!

East of the driveway, a cobblestone rainwater runoff hosts native plants and sedges. Trying to match plants to their ideal location is challenging, because garden conditions change dramatically within the space of just a few yards. Sun beats down on the beds by the front wall. Nearby shady areas with heavy clay collect and channel rainwater and stay very wet late into the summer.

At the back (north) of the house, a tiered wall around a large window well improves the natural light indoors. When the retaining wall was rebuilt last year, their perennials were temporarily transplanted. Clematis and astilbe placed inside the window well, and spiderwort and lady's mantle planted above the wall, are now in the process of reestablishing themselves.

Early Blooms

By Laura Hawks

This year's early spring blossoms, gracing Iowa City's streets, gardens, and parks, have engendered concern about their vulnerability to frost. However, Patrick O'Malley, commercial horticulturalist and field specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, suggests that we just enjoy the early flowers.



O'Malley noted, during an interview on March 19, that the early blooming is typically what residents of St. Louis enjoy every spring. In itself, it will not have a negative impact on the plants, unless temperatures drop to 28–32 degrees F. (or colder). By mid-April, O'Malley noted, there is slightly less than a 50 percent chance of frost. Tender new leaf shoots of trees and shrubs may be susceptible to frost damage, but plant material is typically capable of regrowing a whole new set of leaves and surviving the cold snap.

O'Malley added that on January 25, 2012, the USDA issued an updated Plant Hardiness Zone Standard. You may view the new standard at www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov. Iowa City now has a zone 5B classification (warmer than our previous zone 5A),

and Cedar Rapids and northward are now in zone 5A. There are a few pockets in northeast and northwest Iowa that are in zone 4B— and one pocket in southern Lee County in 6A. O'Malley has experimented successfully with zone 6 plantings in his garden, but he says to exercise caution with plants that are not considered hardy in a given zone.

Does this mean we can now start growing zone 5B plant material in Iowa City?

Yes—however, one should always verify that such plants were grown from seed or plants originating in the zone; otherwise flower buds may lack sufficient hardiness. This is particularly true for *Cornus florida*, a plant that has been considered marginally hardy in this area. (Note the photo of a blooming *Cornus florida* on North Dubuque Street in Iowa City.)

Gene Mohling, regional extension director of ISU Extension and Outreach, suggests that even though our growing season this year is thirty days ahead of what we normally experience, we should still follow plant material and seed packet directions regarding time of planting.

GREEN Grants

By Mary Gantz

Late in February, Mary Gantz, GREEN Grants chair, and Diane Allen and Cindy Parsons, presidents of Project GREEN, met in the new Iowa City Community School District office building with Ann Feldman, assistant district superintendent. Information and ideas about the goals of Project GREEN were shared, regarding the ongoing partnership efforts with the district in both the GREEN Grants program and the Kindergarten Tree curriculum. The Kindergarten Tree program will be in its fourth year of funding from Project GREEN. To date, Project GREEN has invested more than \$228,600 in GREEN Grants to the school grounds in the ICCSD, and over \$4,500 has been invested in the Kindergarten Tree curriculum.



Diane Allen, Cindy Parsons, Mary Gantz, and Ann Feldman.

Kindergarten Trees

By Mary Gantz

Roosevelt Elementary students are shown participating in the planting of the Kindergarten Trees they have received during the last few years. Because of the planned move from Roosevelt to the new Borlaug Elementary School in the fall of 2012, the trees were “planted” in their containers, so they could be moved easily to the new school grounds. This will be the fourth year that Project GREEN, along with Iowa City Landscaping, has supported the Kindergarten Tree curriculum. Each year, every kindergarten class in the Iowa City Community School District chooses a tree which becomes “theirs” to plant, care for, observe, and use in a variety of ways in the curriculum. We salute Roosevelt on its foresight in making possible an easier transition of these special trees to enhance the new Borlaug campus.



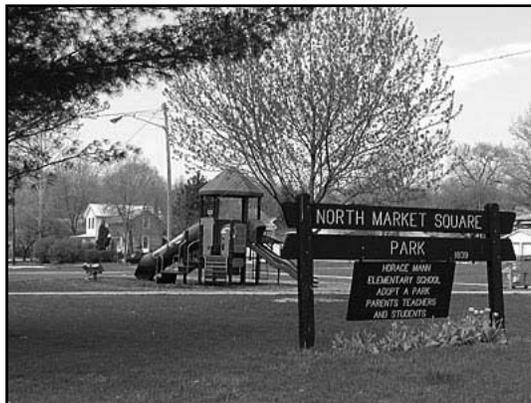
www.projectgreen.org

North Market Square Park: The Very Old Becomes New Again

By John Thomas

In late spring 2012, the last phase of the renovation of historic North Market Square Park will be completed. The renovation promises to bring new life to the Northside's most important public open space, founded in 1839. The overarching vision is for the park to become a destination for all Northside residents. While preserving the park's existing recreational uses, the renovation introduces several new activities and features, including these:

- A central civic space with a 24-foot-wide octagonal pavilion and small plaza, designed to accommodate social gatherings and special events.
- A "village green" area in the park's southwest quadrant, with a pedestrian path and bench seating.
- Internal paths linking the various park activities, and providing opportunities for strolling the park perimeter.



Since the beginning of the planning process, the Northside neighborhood has envisioned transforming North Market Square Park into an urban oasis. This coming May, as a first step toward realizing that goal, Northside volunteer gardeners will plant 377 native and ornamental perennials and shrubs along portions of the perimeter pathway, as well as in island beds beneath several new lawn trees. Project GREEN and the City of Iowa City have generously funded the plant acquisition.

The plant palette for the path border will be mostly prairie species such as little bluestem, great blazing star, joe pye weed, butterfly weed, and blackeyed Susan. Where the border is in partial shade, a woodland understory mix will include small shrubs, such as dwarf fothergilla and fruiting currant.

Low-growing daylilies ('Happy Returns') will provide red flourishes in the beds beneath the lawn trees. This summer will be a colorful one at North Market Square Park!

Down the GREEN Memory Lane

By Sarah Runkel

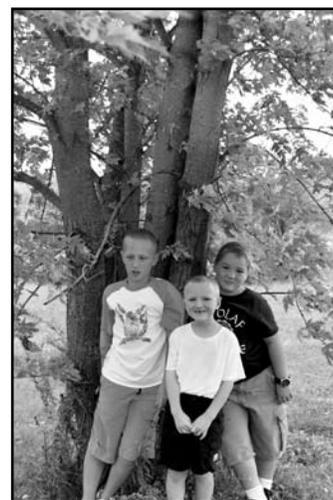
So . . . my son needed to volunteer for a class service project. Project GREEN came to mind. He had volunteered there last year and truly enjoyed it—so much that he went on to do more volunteering throughout the summer. I sent emails and made phone calls and was soon talking with the right, and friendly, people. As we were sealing the deal to have him volunteer at the garden fair, [Project GREEN co-chair] Diane Allen said, "I hope to see you there." I replied, "Well, of course." And just like that, it all came rushing back to me . . .



It was twenty-two years ago that I was a bride-to-be, making all kinds of exciting decisions, planning our wedding, and starting a new life with Zev. It seems that I had seen the signs for the Project GREEN Garden Fair and thought it would be the perfect spot to look for a tree to plant

as a gift to each other to celebrate our wedding.

Well, I got there late. (Little did I know that people stand in line first thing in the morning to pick out their wonderful plants.) There were very few trees left, but I managed to find a great little silver maple—a bit scraggly, but it looked like it could make it—and the price was right! We planted that tree at the family's century farm and hoped for the best.



The Runkel children pose with the "family tree."

And we got it! That tree, now known as our family tree, is strong and big and beautiful. It has five main trunks, which is wonderful since we have five in our family. We photograph our tree whenever we are back visiting the farm. It has become a tradition, just like the Project GREEN Garden Fair. Each year I go to the fair and pick out my Mother's Day gifts for our yard. That's what I like to do on Mother's Day—plant new things in our yard. It has become a delightful way to start spring.

Recent Project GREEN Newsletters can be viewed at www.projectgreen.org



PROJECT GREEN

Civic Center

410 E. Washington St.

Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Return Service Requested



Please plant trees

Clip and Save

Dottie Ray Show, KXIC-800 AM

April 25 & 30 at 8:45 a.m.

2012 Garden Fair, Carver

Hawkeye Arena

May 5, Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

2012 Garden Tour

June 24, Sunday from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Project GREEN OFFICERS

Cindy Parsons, co-president
337-9659 * cparsons@icialaw.com

Diane Allen, co-president
354-5720 * dlallen16@hotmail.com

Jean Dobyns, treasurer
345-3220 * icdobs@aol.com

Stella Clark, secretary
351-6030 * blooming@ia.net

**Mary Gantz,
GREEN Grants for Schools**
338-4406 * margantz@yahoo.com

**Maureen Harding,
garden tour co-chair**
351-4293 * mojay2@gmail.com

A.K. Traw, garden tour co-chair
351-0709 * akandchuck@mchsi.com

Pam Stewart, garden tour
466-3130 * anna3@oaknoll.com

Gail Zlatnik, garden tour
351-8084 * gailz@spamcop.net

Becky Gelman, garden forums
351-5852 * gelman.becky@gmail.com

Mary Lowder, garden forums
351-1207 * mlowder@aol.com

Fern Allison, garden fair coordinator
338-8580 * frdallison@msn.com

Barb Gartner, garden fair coordinator

(H) 338-5781 (W) 335-3476

barbara-gartner@uiowa.edu

Editing: Julia O'Malley at Goodfellow Printing, Gail Zlatnik,
Diane Allen, and Cindy Parsons
Photos: Diane Allen, Skip Kempnich, Mo Harding, Mike Moran
and Laura Hawks

Go GREEN with Project GREEN—Recycle our plastic pots!

Project GREEN has the perfect name, given today's environmental consciousness. "Going GREEN" is what the cool kids are doing these days—and Project GREEN has been a pretty cool organization for more than forty years, beautifying our community's public spaces.

It is time we make a more concerted effort to go GREEN by asking volunteers and shoppers at our GREEN Garden Fair to recycle the plastic pots from the plants purchased at the fair. We'll save money every year that we purchase fewer pots for

our fair plants. After all, our goal is to raise money for garden projects and maintenance, not for plastic pots!

Here's the plan: If you have planted all of your fair purchases by GREEN Garden Tour time on June 24, bring your clean plastic pots (no labels) from your plants, and leave them in the collection box at one of the homes on the tour. Volunteers will sort the pots for reuse in the future.

Help us go GREEN—bring your plastic pots to the GREEN Garden Tour on June 24, 2012.

If you would prefer to receive future newsletters in electronic version only, please send an email to cparsons@icialaw.com