

News Letter

City Hall, Iowa City, Iowa 52240
www.projectgreen.org

GROW TO
REACH
ENVIRONMENTAL
EXCELLENCE
NOW



LATE FALL 2020

Project GREEN Winter Garden Forums 2021

By Connie Goeb

Our 2021 Winter Garden Forums will look much different from those in previous years, but very recognizable to all of us who have been connecting with family, friends, and social groups through technology. Our forums will be virtual, coordinated through the Iowa City Public Library, and have a similar format to our live meetings of the past: a one-hour presentation followed by a Q&A.

We haven't found a way to Zoom cookies and coffee, so you are on your own during a shortened break.

To register for each forum, please go to <https://www.icpl.org/events/ages/adults> and click on each event you wish to virtually attend.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021 BRUCEMORE

We will open our series on **Sunday, January 10, 2021**, with an update on **Brucemore**, the National Trust Historic Site in Cedar Rapids that was slammed during the devastating derecho of August 10. The hurricane-force winds that swept across the estate damaged seven historic buildings, as well as gates and statuary, and destroyed more than 70 percent of the tree canopy. With slides and commentary, a Brucemore representative will detail the damage and plans for recovery.

For the past one hundred years, Brucemore's landscape has served as a living record of the history of the estate and the work of the well-known landscape designer Ossian Cole Simonds. This site's story is a lens to the past and a reminder of the people, the events, and the drive that shaped the local community. Despite the devastation, thoughtful consideration and planning have begun to move forward in restoring Brucemore.

Please join us at **2 p.m.** to see and hear about the latest developments.

Winter Garden Forums (continued on page 2)



Project GREEN Winter Garden Forums 2021

Winter Garden Forums (continued from page 1)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021 LOVE AND SEX IN THE GARDEN



Dr. Donald Lewis

On Sunday, February 14, 2021, at 2 p.m., grab your sweetheart and tune into our special Valentine's Day presentation by a favorite Project GREEN Forum speaker, Dr. Donald Lewis, whose timely topic is "*Love and Sex in the Garden.*" Although we think of our gardens as peaceful places, look closely and you'll see a fair bit of rowdy behavior—sex! Plants have sex

(through pollination) to reproduce, that is, to produce seeds. Plants are stationary, rooted in place, and unable to travel to a potential mate (and no "Tinder" for plants). Instead, many plants use intermediaries to accomplish the essential, sometimes promiscuous, process of sexual reproduction. Enter the pollinators! Dr. Lewis will help us examine the common pollinators in Iowa, their identification, challenges, and preservation.

Dr. Lewis, a professor and extension entomologist in the Department of Entomology at Iowa State University, is responsible for outreach education on insect pest management in turfgrass, trees and shrubs, fruit, vegetables, and households. He provides problem-solving identification and information to Iowans through the ISU Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic, and teaches two online introductory entomology courses for ISU students. Dr. Lewis is also a frequent guest on "Horticulture Friday" with Charity Nebbe on Iowa Public Radio.



Original art by Iowa City illustrator Claudia McGehee, from her upcoming picture book *Begin with a Bee* (University of Minnesota Press, spring 2021.)

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021 IOWA GARDENS OF THE PAST



Beth Cody

On Sunday, March 14, 2021, at 2 p.m., we are especially pleased to announce, we will feature the local author of a recent book on the lost and historic gardens of Iowa from 1850 to 1980. Beth Cody will give a presentation on the history of ornamental gardening in Iowa, illustrated by a slideshow of beautiful vintage gardens and colorful seed catalogues from her 2020 book,

Iowa Gardens of the Past. Iowa gardens are conspicuously absent from landscape-history books, and Beth set out to rectify that. She discovered that Iowa has indeed had many beautiful gardens, both private and public, miraculously preserved in garden photos and illustrations. She compiled photos and the history of Iowa gardens grand and modest, in small towns and on turn-of-the-century farms, as well as images and garden history created by nationally or regionally well-known garden writers, hybridizers, and horticultural entrepreneurs.



Iowa Gardens of the Past

With her presentation and in her book, Cody rescues Iowa's gardening history from obscurity.

Beth's book is available at www.iowagardens.com and would make a wonderful holiday gift. It's a delightful read and may spark great memories of your grandma's garden.

Born and raised in Ames, Beth has lived in the Iowa City area for more than twenty-five years. She and her family (and seven hundred garden books) live in a ninety-five-year-old farmhouse on their five acres in Amish country. She is a business owner, and an avid amateur gardener who is either working in her garden, thinking about her garden, or reading garden books. Beth writes a garden blog at gardenfancy.blogspot.com and volunteers with Project GREEN.

To register for each forum, please go to <https://www.icpl.org/events/ages/adults> and click on each event you wish to virtually attend.

Open Gardens Weekend – Who Will Be Next?

Project GREEN's Open Gardens Weekend 2019 was such a successful event, with thirty gardens open to the public at no admission charge, that we're determined to make it an annual event. The coronavirus put a crimp in our 2020 plans, but we're hoping to continue in the summer of 2021 if the health situation permits it.

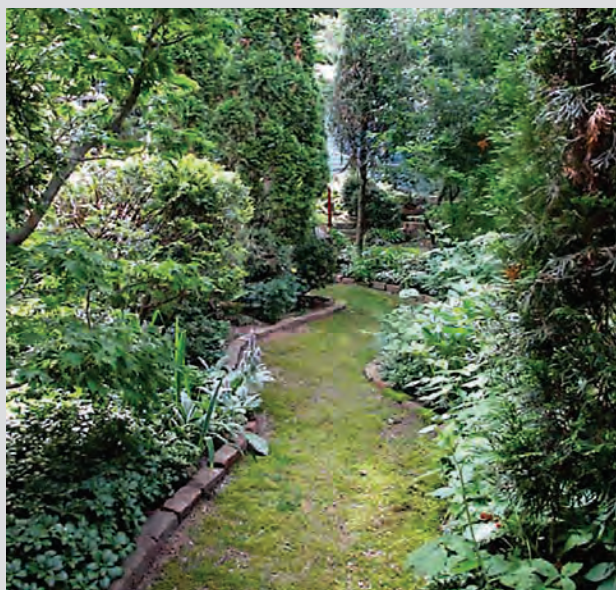
We would love suggestions from YOU for nice gardens to include in future years' events: If you have noticed a well-kept landscape, pretty flower patch, or impressive vegetable garden when you've been out and about in Iowa City or anywhere else in Johnson County, please note the



Shirley Lekin's statuesque lilies were a highlight of 2019.

address and email Cindy Parsons at cparsons@icialaw.com. It doesn't matter if you don't know whose garden it is; all we need is the address, and we'll play detective to track down the owner and invite her or him to be part of our event.

Many thanks for your suggestions! 🌸



The Eggenburg garden transported us to a secret hideway.

In Memoriam



Max Molleston

Project GREEN was saddened to lose our good friend Max Molleston, who died on October 8, 2020.

Max was a member of Project GREEN's Steering Committee and often the first to volunteer his time and talents to the garden fair and garden tour. And he brought cookies to all the garden forums! Max also coordinated the Dilly Bars and other treats for the ice cream socials in 2018 and 2019.

We will miss him.

Max Molleston was vice president of the Iowa Poetry Association, which has donated a tree to Project GREEN in his memory. An *Acer triflorum*, a three-flowered maple (pictured to the right), has been planted at the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens.



Project GREEN Retrospective 2020

By Cindy Parsons



This two-year-old red maple in the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens grows in the “50 trees for 50 years” celebration of Project GREEN’s fiftieth anniversary.

contributors is being published now). We held no ice cream social or open house, and a planned fall workshop for inoculating our own mushroom logs was cancelled.

However, there has still been a lot going on at Project GREEN, and we have quite a few accomplishments to be proud of. The 2020 Winter Garden Forums series held in partnership with the Iowa City Public Library was a great success, with our usual full house of attendees. Plans for our 2021 virtual forums have already been made; see the

As we look back at 2020, it is all too easy to focus on the events we were forced to cancel, as well as the publicity and fundraising opportunities that we relinquished. Sadly, hosting the 2020 Open Gardens Weekend was not possible, nor could we hold the occasional plant sales that we had planned for our Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens location. We did not send out a spring newsletter, as there was not much to report (that is why the list of 2019

article beginning on page one of this newsletter.

The Project GREEN Gardens at the historic Ashton House received the benefit of many volunteers with spare time—and gardening talent—on their hands. We hope that you will venture out to enjoy the outdoors and see the many improvements they have made. The Ashton House site, adjacent to the Iowa River at 820 Park Road, is beautiful every season of the year. Be sure to notice the barred owl house, as well as wren houses and mason bee condos. The winter months also provide opportunities to view bald eagles along the river.

We need your support. Donations are more important now than ever before. Our last Garden Fair was in 2018, and we’ve been without its typical \$30,000 revenue since. Fundraising opportunities this year have been scarce. We are exploring a “Go Fund Me” for targeted additions to the Ashton House Gardens; we’re also hoping for memorial gifts and gifts from the business community and individuals, and for a grant writer to secure additional funding. If anyone knows a grant writer willing to help, please contact dlallen16@hotmail.com.

With your help, we can continue to hold our educational forums and host our Open Gardens Weekend, both of which are provided to the public without charge. We can continue to beautify the Project GREEN Gardens at the Ashton House, to enhance a beautiful botanical garden setting for the public to enjoy. We continue to be an all-volunteer organization, as we have been for the past fifty-two years. We partner with many community organizations and volunteer groups, and continue to be committed to the beautification of our community to benefit everyone.✿

Want to Plant a Tree in Your Yard?

Project GREEN’s front-page newsletter command since our founding in 1968 continues to be “Plant trees!”

If you are an Iowa City resident, here is a way to reduce the cost.

A new city program, offered through the Parks and Recreation Department of Iowa City and called “Root for Trees,” provides tree vouchers to Iowa City residents until May 15, 2021, while supplies last. Residents can save 50% off the purchase price of a tree for their property, for a total cost savings of up to \$125. A 90% discount is additionally available for income-eligible residents.

Tree vouchers are available to any owner of an Iowa City property, redeemable for one tree per property.

The program will help to expand Iowa City’s tree canopy and diversity.

Information on which tree is best for you, how to plant your tree, and how to care for it can be found in the city’s “Right tree. Right location” guide at iowa-city.org.

Get ready to plant your tree in four simple steps:

1. Complete the quick application at www.iowa-city.org/Forms/RootsforTrees.
2. Receive your tree voucher via mail.
3. Redeem your tree voucher at Earl May Garden Center or Iowa City Landscaping and Garden Center.
4. Contact Iowa One Call at 811 or www.IowaOneCall.com, at least 72 hours before you dig so utilities can be properly located. (This is important—and required by law.)

Plant your tree!

Project GREEN at Ashton House in 2020

By Diane Allen, with Sue Mullins

The first day of spring 2021 is March 20, and that will be the day the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens at 820 Park Road will begin their vernal show of scillas, crocuses, daffodils, irises, peonies, and many other spring flowers and shrubs. Look for the pillar at the entrance to the parking lot off westernmost Park Road. There are 25 parking spaces available. All visitors are welcome!

Project GREEN volunteers worked at the gardens for twenty-three weeks in 2020, beginning on May 4. Weekly work sessions on Mondays, 9–11 a.m., went quickly. We asked our volunteers to wear masks and follow social distancing, and it was often challenging to recognize each other with two-thirds of each face covered.

We weeded beds (many times!), planted and fertilized containers, deadheaded spent blooms, and tidied up sidewalks and grassy areas. Project GREEN volunteers donated plants from their home gardens.

One of our proudest successes was the Triangle, at the entrance to the hiking-biking-jogging trail next to Park Road. Volunteers planted annuals in this large bed on May 21, and it was spectacular to its final day, October 28. We chose each plant variety to be ready for full sun, heat, and drought, to offer deer resistance, and to require little or no deadheading.



We named the flowerbeds along the trail the Dashes. There are seven Dashes, and each was weeded and readied with an assortment of bulbs, peonies, lilacs, cannas, daylilies, and more for passersby on foot or bike.

Many beds were weeded, watered, loaded with compost, and weeded and watered some more, often on mornings that were hot well before noon. We began marking new plantings with flags, so there will be no confusion with weeds in 2021. Hundreds of pink, yellow, and orange flags will guide us when work begins again next spring.



The morning of August 10 will not be forgotten! Volunteers worked their usual hours, leaving the Ashton House gardens by 11:30 a.m. Thankfully, everyone was

safely elsewhere when, minutes thereafter, the derecho began to wreak its destruction. On August 17, the task for working volunteers was to gather derecho debris into piles for city staff to collect. After two hours of work, our gardens were beginning to look nearly normal.

Our last work session was October 28, but Project GREEN volunteers will have to wait for a 2020 celebration breakfast, brunch, or lunch together until the world is safe again. Still, it was heartening to know that our gardening efforts helped to make our world a better place.



FYI: 2020 Project GREEN volunteers donated 660.25 hours of effort at the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens.

Future Visions

We need more volunteers as we continue our gardening in this eight-acre-plus park. Anyone wishing to join us, please contact dlallen16@hotmail.com.

We will also be searching for funding from various sources.

And because it's been difficult to watch the deer eat the gardens' beautiful hostas, it's time for those particular plants to find safe new homes. All the hostas at the gardens will be dug up, potted, and available for purchase in early 2021. Watch our website (www.projectgreen.org) for the sale.

Wish List

Here are a few of the ideas we have for beautifying the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens, making them a destination site for visitors from near and far.

- Park benches along the trail, each one potentially honoring or memorializing someone special.
- A fountain to honor Gretchen Harshbarger, one of the founders of Project GREEN.
- More lighting around the gardens. The park lights could also be a memorial to a loved one.

Volunteer, Sue Mullins adds:

Project GREEN provides a wonderful opportunity to volunteer for our local community and to make new friends who share an interest in gardening. We encourage people to consider volunteering weekly at the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens. During the pandemic, distancing safely in the gardens, yet having a sense of camaraderie and accomplishment, has been a good thing! Clearing our minds and getting some fresh air and exercise has been our weekly goal every Monday morning. It's amazing how much can be done by a great group of volunteers in two hours.



Project GREEN's Co-President Diane Allen, coaches volunteers through weekly tasks, which we manage through the traditional divide and conquer. There is no pressure to show up every Monday; volunteers simply work around their availability. Passersby often comment on our maintenance of the property and thank us for a wonderful community space.

Anyone wishing to add to our list, or to get involved, please contact dlallen16@hotmail.com.

Project GREEN Donations though December 31, 2019

GIFTS OF \$1000 or more

River Products Co. in memory of Mick and Jayne Lillig
Langhorne, John and Mary Jo
Lowder, Ken and Mary
Zlatnik, Frank and Gail

GIFTS OF \$500 – \$999

Allen, Diane and Larry
Allison, Fern
*Catalano, Jo
Gantz, Bruce in memory of Mary Gantz
McCabe, Yvonne in memory of Mary Gantz
Neumann, Margaret
Seiberling, Franklin in memory of Nancy Seiberling and Gretchen Harshbarger
Wagoner, Brad in memory of Jan Carpenter

GIFTS OF \$250 – \$499

Caplan, Daniel and Terry
Chappell, Karen and Wally
Clemons, Bryan and Virginia
De Puma, Richard in memory of Richard Louis Sawyer
Hieronymus, John and Beth in memory of Al & Freda Hieronymus
*Hoppin, Margery
Jones, Joni
*Koza, John and Trish
Robinson, John, and Kathy Robinson-Kramer
Menninger, Dr. John
Noyes, Russell and Martha
Stanford, William and Marlene
Summerwill, Dick and Joyce in memory of Mary Gantz
Vandenberg, Anne and Byron
Wilson, Charlotte

GIFTS OF \$100 – \$249

Adams, Lynette
Atkinson, Kendall and Alice
Balmer, John and Penny
Bell, JoAnn
Boyd, Willard and Susan in memory of Mary Gantz
Brandt, Paula O.
Braverman, Mace and Kay
Burke, Peggy
*Byington, Helen
Cannon, Lynne
Carter, Sue and Barry
Cilek, Mike and Judy
Clark, Dr., and Mrs. Charles
Conger, Jim and Syndy
Cummins, Laurie and Dan

Friedman, Donna, and David Curry in memory of Blossom Shaw
DeJong, Douglas, Mr. and Mrs.
Drake, David and Karen
Ebinger, Kate
Enzle, Susan, and Gene Savin
Eskin, Sandra
Fieselmann, Randee and John
Franklin, Karin
Funk, Charlie
Gardner, Carolyn in memory of James I. Gardner
Hahn, Thomas and Laura
Hegmann, Julie, and Norlin Boyd in memory of Blossom Shaw
Hendrix, Steve
Hesse, Chuck and Anne
Higgs-Mayer, Arthur and Judith
Hines, Bill and Jean in memory of Mary Gantz
Hinrichs, Char
Hobart, Tom and Jeri
Hoherz, Paul and Monica
Hood, Albert and Jean
Hoover, H. Dee and Myrene in memory of Al and Freda Hieronymus
Hubel, Kenn and Jan in memory of Al and Freda Hieronymus
Jordan, Herbert
Klink, William and Judith
Kruse, Dick and Mary Lea to honor Sue Mullins
Leff, Phil and Joyce
Lensing, Michael
Lindman, Barbara
Merchant, Jim and Mary in memory of Mary Gantz
Mixdorf, Mary
*Mullins, Sam, and Sue Terveer
Murray, Louise
Nelson, Margaret in memory of Dorothy Moeller
Nothnagle, John in memory of Gail Nothnagle
Novick, Naomi
Pagliai, Polly and Armond
*Parsons, Cindy, and Gary Klinefelter
Parsons, Doug and Connie
Parsons, Joan
Paul, Doug and Linda
Penno, Bonnie
Peterson, Jim and Beth to honor M. Joanne Peterson
Sandrock, Jean Prior
Sayre, Hutha
*Schreiber, Linda

Scott, William and Winifred
Seegmiller, Dwight and Melinda in memory of Joye Ashton McKusick
Shasby, Michael, Mr. and Mrs.
Sifford, Harlan
Slager, Marcia
Smith, Isabelle
Smith, Sondra in memory of Mary Gantz
*Staley, Sally and John
Stratton, John and Elizabeth
*Summerwill, Joan
Thomas, John, and Sarah Clark
Vernon, Rhoda
Wagner, Frank and Barbara
Walker, Jean
Walters, Jim and Chris in memory of Blossom Shaw
Wilson, Herb and Janice
Wrede, Gary and Deb
Wunder, Charles and Marcia
Zaharis, Cathy

GIFTS UP TO \$99

Addis, Patricia
Allen, Judy
Baender, Mary Lou
Bell, Joann
Black, Minette to honor Karen Chappell
Braddock, Carol
Brennan, Tim and Jackie
Burke, Peggy in memory of Carol Jaspersen
Burmeister, Fern
Busch, Doug and Julie
Buswell, Patricia
Buxton, Joan
Carter, Sue
Clark, Stella
Cleveland, Melanie
Connell, Denise in memory of Elaine Boersma
Craig, Susan
Dahms, Terry
Falconer, Joan
Foster, Marian
Frye, Susan J.
Galer, Heidi
Gerleman, David and Joyce
Hanson, Barb and Carroll
Hardy, Nadine
Hartwig, Wyonna
Hoogerwerf, Lou Rae
Kelly, Betty
Kemp, Christine in memory of Robert Kemp
Kieffer-Haverkamp, Lisa
Kleinow, Kathy
Knutson, John and Claudia

Kuehn, Rebecca and Markus
 Levey, Linda in memory of Andrea Levey
 Lust, Gary and Sharon
 Lyons, Steve
 Margolin, Mike and Joanne
 McClain, Donald, Mr. and Mrs.
 McGuire, Linda
 Mears, Julia and Phillip
 Meloy, Linda in memory of Jan Carpenter
 Mills, Sally
 Monagan, Alfrieta
 Nauseef, Bill and Judy
 Neuzil, Julie in memory of Bill Neuzil
 Norton, Carrie Z.
 Ostrander, Harry and Chris
 Perrin, Marlene
 Pugh, Joe and Sherry
 Robinson, Jennifer
 Rosazza, Jack and Trudi
 Sangster, Jackie in memory of Joye Ashton
 McKusick
 Schroeder, Larry and Judy
 Schuchert, Linda and Gene
 Seery, Clyde and Kay
 Spaziani, Carol
 Stuedemann, Ross
 Tiwari, Rosemary in memory of Blossom
 Shaw

Van Hulzen, Don and Joan
 Wehrheim, Eugene and Nancy
 Welsh, Bob and Eunice in memory of
 Marilyn Long
 White, Pat and Betty
 Williamson, Harold
 Williamson, Stan and Catherine in
 memory of Mary Gantz
 Wilson, Larry, and Mary Matthew
 Ziegler, Ekhard and Wendy

GRANTS RECEIVED

MidAmerican Energy Trees Please
 Community Foundation of Johnson
 County

BUSINESS SPONSORS

Cat Clinic of Iowa City
 Chad Burtch State Farm Insurance
 GreenState Credit Union
 HyVee Inc.
 Hills Bank and Trust Company
 Iowa City Landscaping & Garden Center
 Tallgrass Business Solutions
 U.S. Bank
 Rindy Inc.
 Urban Acres Real Estate



* GIFT TO SUPPORT PROJECT GREEN
 ENDOWMENT FUND AT THE JOHNSON
 COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Mary Gantz GREEN Grants

Making Our Schools Green

By Jo Pattschull

Project GREEN reports another casualty of the pandemic—this fall's 2020 Mary Gantz Memorial Kindergarten Tree Project. For many years, Project GREEN has funded a schoolyard tree for each kindergarten class in the Iowa City Community School District. Each class plants its tree as a school activity, and the tree grows along with the children during their elementary school years.

This fall, ICCSD schools did not begin on the customary dates, and finally opened as an online program only. Then, as schools moved to in-person classrooms, not all children opted for classroom



attendance. Our Steering Committee felt that an inclusive program must allow all kindergarten students to have the option of participating in their classroom tree-planting.

With hope for a healthy future, Project GREEN plans to move the tree plantings to the spring of 2021, perhaps in connection with Arbor Day activities.

Of course, the Mary Gantz GREEN Grants Kindergarten Tree Program will continue for all schools wishing to participate. 🌱





PROJECT GREEN

City Hall
410 E. Washington St.
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Return Service Requested

A Natural Tradition

In Spring native greenery works to push away winter protection. Foresters and helpers find new places for young trees and shrubs.

Helpless wild seedlings burst from their nourishment with nature as enabler.

Seasons shift again.

Oceans of leaves transform showing typical bursts of red-shaded color.

Silent admirers move as groups, gathering at scenic outlooks.

Others traipse into woodlands to learn of growth and girth.

By Max J. Molleston

CLIP AND SAVE

Project GREEN Winter Garden Forums

All 2021 forums are virtual and coordinated through the Iowa City Public Library. To register for each forum, please go to <https://www.icpl.org/events/ages/adults> and click on each forum which you wish to virtually attend.

2 p.m. Sunday, January 10, 2021:

"Brucemore, the National Trust Historic Site"

2 p.m. Sunday, February 14, 2021:

"Love and Sex in the Garden,"
with Dr. Donald Lewis

2 p.m. Sunday, March 14, 2021:

Iowa Gardens of the Past,
with author Beth Cody

Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens

9-11 a.m., Monday, May 3, 2021:

First volunteer work session
at 820 Park Road, Iowa City

Project GREEN Officers

Cindy Parsons,
co-president
319-400-7179

Becky Gelman,
garden forums
319-351-5852

Diane Allen,
co-president
319-430-6649

Connie Goeb,
garden forums chair
310-938-0395

Barb Burkhardt,
treasurer
319-330-1933

Jennifer Wagner,
Facebook chair
319-331-2242

Mary Lowder,
secretary
319-430-0217

Beth Cody,
Open Gardens Weekend chair
319-683-3088

Jo Pattschull,
Mary Gantz GREEN grants
for schools chair
319-338-8405

**Be sure to check out our updated and
easy-to-navigate website: www.projectgreen.org
and follow us on Facebook**