

News Letter

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

GROW TO
REACH
ENVIRONMENTAL
EXCELLENCE
NOW



LATE FALL 2021

Project GREEN Winter Garden Forums 2022

By Connie Goeb

Project GREEN has been holding our Winter Garden Forums in partnership with the Iowa City Public Library since 1989. These garden-related educational presentations were begun as a tribute to Edwin Green, longtime Managing Editor of Iowa City Press-Citizen, who left the majority of his estate to local charitable entities, including a bequest to Project GREEN.

Our 2022 Winter Garden Forums will consist of two in-person speakers and one speaker exclusively in Zoom format. It's the hybrid system that we've all become accustomed to over the past 18 months, of course with the caveat that the in-person events will depend on COVID conditions during the first three months of 2022. We are planning to livestream the in-person events on the Library's facebook page, and more information will be available as planning is finalized. The in-person events will be subject to ICPL protocol which currently requires mask-wearing.

Check our website at www.projectgreen.org for more details later in December.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022 VANDER VEER BOTANICAL PARK



Natasha Sotos

On Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 2 p.m. we will be welcoming Natasha Sotos as our first in-person presenter since March 2020. She is the Executive Director of The Friends of Vander Veer. Vander Veer Botanical Park is a 33-acre botanical garden in the Vander Veer Park Historic District of Davenport, Iowa, with conservatory, outdoor gardens, fountains, nationally-recognized rose garden and hosta glade. It is believed to be one of the first botanical parks west of the Mississippi River.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022 GARDEN FUNDAMENTALS

On Sunday, February 13, 2022 at 2 p.m., we will have a Zoom presentation by Benjamin Vogt of Lincoln, Nebraska with some very timely information. With all of us struggling



Benjamin Vogt

to modify our gardens for the increased summer heat, cycles of drought and excessive rain events, he will address the "Fundamentals of Garden Layers". Benjamin will discuss learning from natural plant communities to increase ecosystem function and climate resilience at home in our own gardens. From the fundamentals of plant succession over the years to using plant reproduction and habit to fill ecological niches, the right native plant communities make all the difference for beautiful gardens that both wildlife and people crave. Benjamin is the author of *A New Garden Ethic: Cultivating Defiant Compassion for an Uncertain Future* and the forthcoming *Prairie Up: An Introduction to Natural Garden Design* (autumn 2022). He manages the prairie inspired design firm Monarch Gardens LLC (monarchgard.com) which focuses on urban and suburban lawn to meadow conversions. Benjamin's award winning work has been featured in *American Gardener*, *Garden Design*, *Fine Gardening*, *Midwest Living* and *Houzz*. Benjamin lives in Lincoln, Nebraska with his wife and son.

Project GREEN Winter Garden Forums 2022

Winter Garden Forums (continued from page 1)

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022
UNIV. OF IOWA URBAN FOREST



Andrew Dahl

On Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 2 p.m. we will be informed and entertained in-person by Andrew Dahl, the University of Iowa Urban Forestry Supervisor and Campus Arborist who will give us a visual survey and commentary on the most notable of the 8,000 trees on campus. The U of I campus has over 320 species and countless cultivars in the maintained areas. Of note are two Conifer Reference Gardens as recognized by the American Conifer Society and a Literary Grove featuring trees with connections to famous authors at the Writers Workshop. In addition, the campus boasts a Quercetum (oak collection), and extensive collections of ginkgoes and several Iowa State Champion Trees. Andrew has been the campus arborist at the U of I for the past 22 years. During that time, the University achieved Tree Campus USA designation and most recently became an accredited arboretum through ArbNet. He has received the award of Urban Forestry Professional of the year from both the Iowa Urban Forestry Council and the International Society of Arboriculture, and an Award of Merit from the Midwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. Andrew says when he isn't busy working at the University arboretum, he's dragging his family to other arboreta. He loves "neat trees" and talking trees to like minded enthusiasts. As a special bonus and added incentive to attend, Andrew is donating a very special burr oak seedling (an offspring of THAT TREE (thattree.net)) to be given away as a door prize.

We hope to see you at the 2022 Project GREEN Winter Garden Forums!



The Larch tree that stood on the UI campus for 60 years.



The Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens are a delightful destination for Iowa City visitors and local residents. The eight-acre park setting is bordered by Normandy Drive to the east, Park Road to the south, and the meandering Iowa River to the west. When you see the pillar along Park Road, pull into the parking lot and enjoy strolling around the grounds.



Take time to enjoy spectacular views by sitting on one of four benches Project GREEN has installed along the hiking/biking trail. There is also a bench located just north of the Ashton House garage.



There are many varieties of trees, shrubs, and perennial plants around the landscaped grounds. Project GREEN's 2022 goal is to identify all plantings with signage so visitors can learn what grows well in our Johnson County location.

The Triangle flowerbed has been filled with annual flowers for the past three years. This bed is located along Park Road and Rocky Shore Drive. Plants are chosen for color, size, ability to survive wet and dry

Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens

Something special is always happening at 820 Park Road!

By Diane Allen



conditions, deer resistance, and three-season beauty. Plans are underway to label each grouping of plants, allowing passers-by to learn more about what could be planted in their home garden.



One of the 2021 additions to the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens was The Circle. The Circle flowerbed is located directly west of the Ashton House. It was filled with red, white, and blue annual salvia. These plants were chosen using the same guidelines as for The Triangle. In the center of the bed was a Voodoo Lily which was donated by Project GREEN's project manager, Ed Rinderspacher.



This Little Free Library was designed, built, and installed by local carpenter extraordinaire Roger Swartz this past summer. The Little Free Library was patterned

after the "real" Ashton House. The Library is located at the south end of The Triangle flowerbed and is open for business 24/7. Check it out for reading materials or to donate books.

Beauty surrounds the Ashton House. *The House and grounds, owned by the City of Iowa City, are available for rent and can accommodate up to 100 people for meetings, reunions, parties, weddings, and receptions. For more information or to check availability, contact Erin Rumsey by calling: 402-677-1821,*



The Hellebore Garden is Project GREEN's newest addition to the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens. The bed is located on the east side of the Ashton House. This area had been filled with hostas in previous years. Since Project GREEN Gardens shares its grounds with many foliage munching four-legged friends, removing the hostas and replacing with hellebores seemed an easy solution. Ed Rinderspacher created and installed the new bed.

Planting new trees happens often. Trees are chosen to thrive along the Iowa River, and are provided with winter protection and professional care. Anyone interested in planting a tree for a loved one, please contact Diane Allen, dlallen16@hotmail.com.

There are many facets of the evolving story of the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens. None is more important than our dedicated Project GREEN volunteers. This hearty group of gardeners spent 26 weeks caring for the gardens during 2021. We started May 3 and our last day together was October 26. In total, volunteers spent 612 hours weeding, watering, planting, pruning, deadheading, discarding debris, and caring for the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens. Please consider joining our team! Our time together goes quickly as we garden and chat, while working to make the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens a very special place to visit.

Cheers to Project GREEN!☘



Project GREEN Contributors for 2020

GIFTS OF \$1000 or more

River Products Co.
in memory of Mick and Jayne Lillig
Dr. William Rubright
in memory of Emilie J. Rubright
MidAmerican Energy
Trees Please grant

GIFTS OF \$500 – \$999

Fern Allison
Wayne and Noralee Balmer
to honor Cindy Parsons
Don and Dorothy Fowles
Bruce Gantz
in memory of Mary Gantz
John and Mary Jo Langhorne
Yvonne McCabe
in memory of Mary Gantz
Margaret Neumann
Herb and Janice Wilson
Frank and Gail Zlatnik

GIFTS OF \$200 – \$499

Loretta Angerer
Daniel and Terry Caplan
Jim and Syndy Conger
in memory of Max Molleston
John and Beth Hieronymus
in memory of Al and Freda Hieronymus
Hills Bank and Trust Company
Char Hinrichs
*Margery Hoppin
Joni Jones
*John and Patricia Koza
Jerry and Patricia Meis
Dr. John Menninger
Sam Mullins and Sue Terveer-Mullins
to honor Project GREEN volunteers
Louise Murray
David and Janice Ricklefs
Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Scamman
William and Marlene Stanford
Neil and Joyce Trott
Urban Acres Real Estate
Anne and Byron Vandenberg

GIFTS OF \$100 – \$199

Susan Ahrens
Diane and Larry Allen
in memory of Daniel R. Kramer
Kendall and Alice Atkinson
John and Penny Balmer

Paula O. Brandt
Jim and Deb Cannon
Lynne Cannon
Karen Chappell
Mike and Judy Cilek
Katherine Clifton
to honor the Oaknoll gardeners
David Curry and Donna Friedman
in memory of Ann E. Curry
Terry Dahms
Tom and Shari Davis
in memory of Dottie Ray
Kate Ebinger
Susan Enzle and Gene Savin
Randee and John Fieselmann
Karin Franklin
Carolyn Gardner
Thomas and Laura Hahn
Bill and Jean Hines
Thomas and Jeri Hobart
Paul and Monica Hoherz
Kenn and Jan Hubel
in memory of Nancy Seiberling
Richard and Linda Kerber
in memory of Mary Gantz
Jeff Klahn
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John Kramer and Kathy Robinson -
Kramer in memory of Daniel R. Kramer
Ruedi and Cecile Kuenzli
Sue Lind
Douglas and Joanne Madsen
Mary Mixdorf
Reese and Jo Morgan
Margaret Nelson
in memory of Dorothy Moeller
Naomi Novick
Art and Ginger Nowak
Mike O'Leary
Joan Parsons
Doug and Linda Paul
Bonnie Penno
in memory of Ethel Bohl
Jim and Beth Peterson
Stan and Pat Podhajsky
Kay Prediger
Eldon and Linda Prybil
Joe and Sherry Pugh
Larry and Judy Schroeder
Sondra Smith
in memory of Mary Gantz
*John and Sally Staley
John and Elizabeth Stratton

John Thomas and Sarah Clark
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GIFTS UP TO \$99

Lynette Adams
Patricia Addis
Robert and Claire Ashman
Diane Baumbach
Gary and Susan Beadle
JoAnn Bell
Larry and Jan Blake
in memory of Audrey Murphy
Byron and Suzanne Bork
Patricia Buswell
Bill and Linda Bywater
in memory of Suzie Oliver Summy
Virginia Clemons
in memory of Suzie Oliver Summy
Melanie Cleveland
Susan Craig
Bernard and Cherie Cremers
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Laurie and Dan Cummins
Fred and Donna Dee
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Jim and Jan Down
in memory of Mary Down
Mary Lynn Eckert
Joan Falconer
Susan J. Frye
Heidi Galer
Barb Gartner
David and Joyce Gerleman
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Tim and Mila Grady
in memory of Alan Smith,
father of Freyja Stoltz
Mary F. Hacker
Carroll and Barbara Hanson
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Marilyn Hauer
Colette Issa
Priscilla Jacobsen
in memory of Suzie Oliver Summy
Joe and Sandy Joynt
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Mary Laughlin and Roger Swartz

Karl and Vicki Lonngren
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 Mike and Joanne Margolin
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 Ramona McGurk
 Philip and Julia Mears
 Linda Meloy
 Susie Nehring
 Carrie Z. Norton
 in memory of Mary Gantz
 Dr. and Mrs. Richard Otis
 in memory of Suzie Oliver Summy
 *Cindy Parsons
 Marlene Perrin
 Deb and Kim Persons

Jack and Trudi Rosazza
 Jackie Sangster
 in memory of Mary Gantz
 *Linda Schreiber
 Linda and Gene Schuchert
 Clyde and Kay Seery
 Alan and Nancy Sherburne
 in memory of Suzie Oliver Summy
 Rina and Richard Sjolund
 Anne Skinstad
 Connie R. Smith
 in memory of Keith and EmmieLou Hora
 John and Anne Sopher
 Carol Spaziani
 Susan E. Sweeney

Joan VanHulzen
 in memory of Don VanHulzen
 Frank and Barbara Wagner
 Eugene and Nancy Wehrheim
 Bob and Eunice Welsh
 in memory of Marilyn Long
 Pat and Betty White
 Harold Williamson
 Larry Wilson and Mary Matthew
 Martha Wilson
 Steve and Sue Volken
 in memory of Suzie Oliver Summy
 Ekhard and Wendy Ziegler

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

2021

A Year of Challenges and Accomplishments

2021 has been another challenging year for all of us, and many changes have occurred in the ways that we carry on our business affairs as well as our personal lives. We at Project GREEN are no exception. Although we were forced to curtail much of our fund raising and social activities again this past year, we are very proud of the things that we did accomplish.

Our three Winter Garden Forums, presented in partnership with the Iowa City Public Library in January, February and March, were this year delivered via ZOOM (but unfortunately without delicious cookies), and all sessions were quite well attended. Then after much "back and forth" discussion (Should we? Shouldn't we? Is it safe? Will garden hosts sign up? Will visitors come?) in July we held our second Open Gardens Weekend, which featured free public touring of 30 gardens in Iowa City and Coralville.

This was made possible by the generosity of ten local businesses which sponsored the event. Plans are currently underway for Open Gardens Weekend in July of 2022, as we found that garden owners and garden lovers alike welcomed the opportunity to safely host and attend an outdoors event to celebrate and appreciate the beauty of our Iowa summer and the hard work of our local gardeners.

Our intrepid volunteer gardeners met nearly every Monday morning to work at the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens, chalking up over 600 hours of volunteer work for the year to maintain

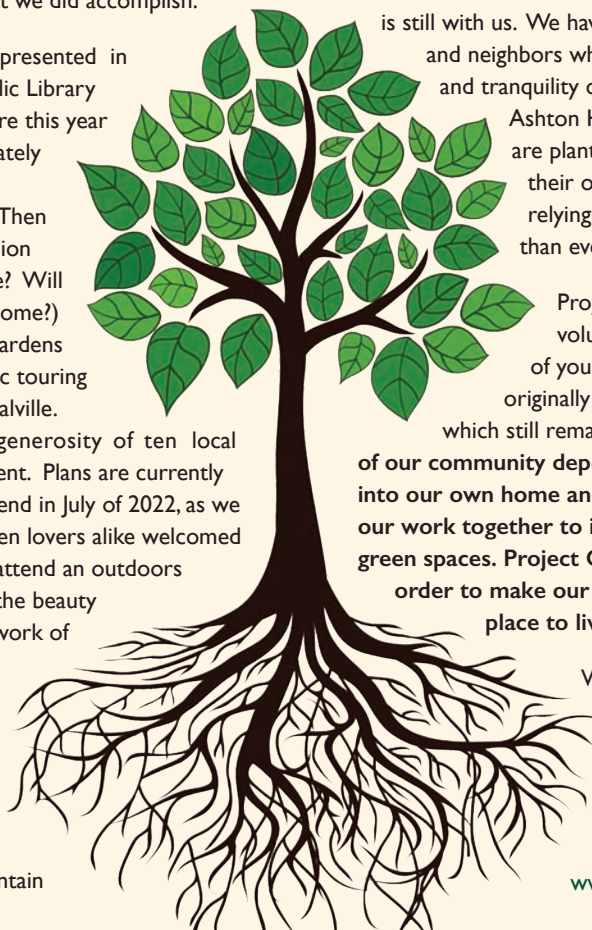
and beautify that special site next to the meandering Iowa River. We are planning even bigger and better garden displays for next spring and summer.

Even though these times of the pandemic have been challenging, our roots in the community are deep and the beauty of nature is still with us. We have seen and heard from many friends and neighbors who have recently discovered the beauty and tranquility of the eight acre park surrounding the Ashton House. More and more homeowners are planting their own gardens and beautifying their own yards. It seems that many of us are relying on nature for our well-being now more than ever.

Project GREEN is proud to remain an all volunteer organization, so 100 percent of your donation goes towards our goals, originally established 53 years ago in 1968, and which still remain true: **We believe that the beauty of our community depends on the care that we each put into our own home and business landscapes, and also on our work together to improve and maintain our public green spaces. Project GREEN supports both of these, in order to make our community an even more beautiful place to live and work.**

Won't you help Project GREEN continue making our community a more pleasant place to live by sending your donation today using the envelope in this newsletter?

Donations can also be made online at www.projectgreen.org.



Project GREEN Open Gardens Weekend

By Beth Cody



After a hiatus in 2020, Project GREEN was once again able to host our annual garden tour event for the public: the Open Gardens Weekend 2021, held on July 10 & 11.

Despite our late start in organizing the event due to lingering uncertainty about the public health situation, thirty garden owners volunteered to share their gardens in our event, including six wonderful gardens in Coralville (a first time for a Project GREEN garden tour.) Visitors were spoiled for choice with a wide variety of so many lovely gardens to see!



The perennial border of Anne and Byron Vandenberg was delightfully flower-filled.

Ten local businesses stepped up to sponsor the Open Gardens Weekend 2021, raising money for Project GREEN's community beautification projects and helping to publicize our fun and inspiring public event.

And in spite of predictions of rain, the weather smiled on us and hundreds of garden visitors turned out to enjoy the many gardens. We received numerous comments about how personal the event felt, providing more time for friendly chats between garden owners and visitors – a wonderful opportunity to meet neighbors and enjoy beautiful gardens at the same time!



The Asian-inspired pond garden of Paula Sanan was a soothing and beautiful highlight of the event.

The Open Gardens Weekend differs from past garden tours in that the event is free to attend – no tickets necessary. Money is raised from local business sponsorship of the event, and maps showing the participating gardens can be picked up at sponsor businesses.



Jack and Shirley Lekin's garden wowed numerous visitors with its colorful flower beds.

Anyone living within the city limits of Iowa City (and now Coralville!) can open their garden in our event. If you're



Phyllis Harris shows off her amazing container gardens: over 100 different containers filled with delicious, healthy foods (and some unusual plants too)!



Ryan From poses with his vintage John Deere tractor. His garden also sports a Herky statue!

proud of your gardening efforts, we'd love to include your garden in next year's event!

Or, if you know of a beautiful garden in your neighborhood, please let us know the address and we'll contact the garden owner. We appreciate your help in spreading the word about the Open Gardens Weekend 2022!🌻

The Open Gardens Weekend 2022 will be held the weekend of July 9-10, 2022, and we'd love to include your garden.

Project GREEN thanks
these local businesses for sponsoring our
Open Gardens Weekend 2021:

Cat Clinic of Iowa City
City of Coralville
Forever Green, Inc.
Hills Bank and Trust Company
Hy-Vee
Iowa City Landscaping
Lenoch & Cilek ACE Hardware
Rindy, Inc.
Tallgrass Business Resources
Urban Acres Real Estate

Mary Gantz GREEN Grants KINDERGARTEN TREE PROJECT

By Jo Pattschull

Fall is the season when we think of pumpkins, red and gold leaves and the Project GREEN Kindergarten Tree Planting Project. This program, co-sponsored by Project GREEN and Iowa City Landscaping, was started by our friend and Project GREEN volunteer Mary Gantz in 2009. Under this program, a tree is provided free of cost to each elementary school kindergarten class in the Iowa City Community School District. This promotes an understanding of the importance of trees to our community and world, and provides ownership of a special tree to each kindergarten class so they can watch the growth of "their" tree for the seven years they are at their elementary school, and beyond. Since 2009, Project GREEN has contributed over \$21,000 towards this fun and educational effort.

This fall, with coordination and assistance from Chuck Porto of Iowa City Landscaping, Project GREEN helped nineteen kindergarten classes plant their trees. Special thanks go to Patrick Snyder, ICCSD elementary science coordinator, who has joined our efforts in promoting this project. Thanks also go to the ICCSD Grounds Department, which selected the tree varieties for this year's project.

During the last half of October, a crew from Iowa City Landscaping visited each elementary school to show the combined kindergarten classes at that school about parts of

the tree and how to plant, water and protect new tree growth. Classroom teachers incorporated this event into a curriculum about the importance of trees in our world. The tree species selected for this year are varieties that are native, and which we hope will be viable in this era of climate change and tree disease. The species selected for 2021 are: Black Gum, Shingle

Oak, Ironwood, Linden, Kentucky Coffeetree, Chestnut Oak, Shagbark Hickory, Turkish Filbert and Frontier Elm. We wish them all many years of green growth!🌻



A representative from Iowa City Landscaping demonstrates tree-planting and answers questions from Iowa City kindergarteners each fall.



PROJECT GREEN

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

Return Service Requested

“Kind hearts are the gardens,
Kind thoughts are the roots,
Kind words are the flowers,
Kind deeds are the fruits,
Take care of your garden
And keep out the weeds,
Fill it with sunshine,
Kind words, and Kind deeds.”

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

This poem perfectly embodies the attributes and principles of our Project GREEN volunteers. Please consider joining our merry band of gardeners. Our 2022 weekly work sessions will begin Monday, May 2, from 9 - 11 a.m. at the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens, 820 Park Road. Please contact Diane Allen at dlallen16@hotmail.com or 319-430-6649 to sign-up.

CLIP AND SAVE

Project GREEN Winter Garden Forums

Sunday, January 9, 2022 p.m. at 2 p.m.

Iowa City Public Library Natasha Sotos will present, “The History and Beauty of Vander Veer Botanical Park”

Sunday, February 13, 2022 at 2 p.m.

Iowa City Public Library Benjamin Vogt will present, “Fundamentals of Garden Layers”

Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 2 p.m.

Iowa City Public Library Andrew Dahl will present, “The Most Notable of the 8000 Trees on the University of Iowa Campus”

Monday, May 2, 2022 from 9 - 11 a.m.

beginning work session Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens. 820 Park Road, Iowa City

Project GREEN Open Gardens Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, July 9 - 10, 2022

Project GREEN Officers

Cindy Parsons,
co-president
319-400-7179

Diane Allen,
co-president
319-430-6649

Barb Burkhardt,
treasurer
319-330-1933

Mary Lowder,
secretary
319-430-0217

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

Becky Gelman,
garden forums
319-351-5852

Connie Goeb,
garden forums chair
310-938-0395

Jennifer Wagner,
Facebook chair
319-331-2242

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

Be sure to check out our updated and easy-to-navigate website: www.projectgreen.org, and follow us on Facebook. Please contact us at iowacityprojectgreen@gmail.com for address changes.