

News Letter

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

GROW TO
REACH
ENVIRONMENTAL
EXCELLENCE
NOW



LATE FALL 2022

2023 Second Sunday Winter Garden Forums

By Linda Schreiber, Project GREEN Garden Forums/communications

This summer, our stalwart Project GREEN volunteer Connie Goeb relocated to California to be close to family. For several years, Connie has scheduled our long-running garden forums in partnership with the Iowa City Public Library. We will miss her initiative and creativity and her volunteer assistance at Project GREEN Gardens at Ashton House. In Connie's absence, I've taken on scheduling for the 2023 forums. Invitations have gone out and programs are coming together quickly, focusing on what's new for 2023, conservation, and a green tomorrow. Here's our speaker lineup for 2023.

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



Dawn Bouslog

JANUARY 8, 2023 WHAT'S NEW IN THE GARDEN

On January 8, **Dawn Bouslog**, owner of Dawn's Pleasant Valley Greenhouses, will forecast **What's New in the Garden**. Using her knowledge and skills operating a popular greenhouse for decades, Dawn will help guide new and

experienced gardeners to find the appropriate plant selections for 2023 – spring, summer, and fall. Area gardeners are familiar with Pleasant Valley, which operated in Iowa City from 1952 until 2017 when the lot on South Gilbert Street was sold and developed as Iowa City Riverfront Crossings. Dawn continues the tradition to enrich the environment with plants and all that complements them in her new location offering a great selection of annuals, perennials, herbs, and veggies at 29030 150th Street, South English.



Chris Henze

FEBRUARY 12, 2023 NATURALIZING ROADSIDES: MAKING A MORE BEAUTIFUL IOWA

On February 12, **Chris Henze**, Johnson County Roadside Vegetation Manager, will address **Naturalizing Roadsides: Making**

a **More Beautiful Iowa**. Chris will discuss how roadside natives prevent soil erosion and provide important habitats, he promotes the use of prairie statewide. Here in Johnson County, Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management helps to maintain a safe travel environment on the county right-of-ways, controls noxious weeds and soil erosion, sustains water quality, improves wildlife habitat, and provides the public with aesthetically pleasing roadsides using a variety of management tools.



Jane Wilch

MARCH 12, 2023 A GREENER TOMORROW

On, March 12, **Jane Wilch**, Iowa City Recycling Coordinator, will discuss opportunities and options that citizens can make for **A GREENER Tomorrow**. Iowa City's Resource Management Division and staff are leaders in recycling programs that benefit our community and Iowa. The Iowa City

Landfill offers gardeners compost to benefit the soil in your garden and mulch at an affordable price. Plastic is overtaking our oceans and our landfills. What can consumers do to take climate action and reduce their environmental footprints? Learn all about the waste reduction efforts happening locally, and how you can participate to be part of the environmental solution...

We hope to see you at the 2023 Project GREEN Winter Garden Forums!

Hard-Working Volunteers Create Stunning I

Setting the scene on a season of work at Ashton House Gardens

By Diane Allen



Imagine working in your garden for 26 weeks (never missing a week) beginning in May and ending the last of October. Include in this story a total of 743 hours spent weeding, raking, planting, spreading mulch, watering, deadheading, and tidying up, then starting the list over and over again. Oh, the results would be

overwhelmingly beautiful, wouldn't they?

Well, this is a true story with the stars of this production being our volunteers at the Project GREEN Gardens at the historic Ned Ashton House at 820 Park Road in Iowa City.

Scene 1:

The "Triangle" flowerbed, planting day, June 2022



Followed by weeding, raking, planting, spreading mulch, watering, deadheading, tidying up and so on...

Scene 2:

The Quilt, planting day, June, 2022
(Background information: The Quilt flowerbed was added to the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens in 2022. It is a 12' X 12' bed with coleus in the center and marigolds planted around each side. The bed design represents a quilt, keeping the ground warm and cozy. This bed has been very popular and will return in 2023.)

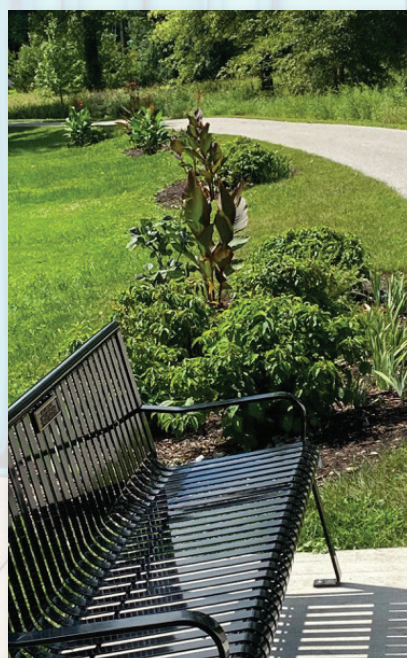


Scene 3:

The "Pinwheel Circle", planted June 2022



Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens, so much to share



Scene 4:

Project GREEN has purchased benches and placed them along the hiking/ biking trail for resting and watching the meandering Iowa River. There are seven "Dash" flowerbeds along the trail, cared for by Project GREEN volunteers.

g Displays



The dry river bed moves excess water away from the gardens and house. It is a challenge to keep weed free, but the results are lovely.



There is an accessible entrance ramp to the Ashton House. Project GREEN volunteers spent three weeks making the garden between the ramp and stairs tidy and welcoming.

Roll additional credits:

- The Nancy Seiberling Peony Bed and Line Out Bed
- Jim Maynard plaque and berm filled with daffodils and surprise lilies
- Containers of flowers around the entrance to House.
- Park Rd. entrance pillar with planter and flowers on top.
- Oval beds with perennial plants
- Labeled trees
- Ligularia Dell
- Hundreds of daffodils and iris blooming in the spring
- Hellebore bed on east side of Ashton House
- Pergola for taking pictures

Many thanks to our donors, volunteers, and Iowa City Parks and Recreation staff for all their support to keep the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens alive and special. It's a wonderful location to visit, 820 Park Road.

All are welcome. To be continued in 2023....

Little Free Library Needs Your Donations

By R. C. Swartz

(creator of the LFL at the Ashton House)

The Little Free Library along Park Road on the Ashton House grounds had a fresh coat of paint applied this fall, just before Mother Nature brought an end to the outdoor painting season. It continues to be an homage to my draftsman/carpenter/painter/farmer father; the paint brushes that I inherited from him can still paint a smooth surface and a straight edge. The implications of this are several.

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a Little Free Library in possession of a fresh coat of paint must be in want of more books. And so, my fellow readers, ask not what the Little Free Library can do for you – but rather – what can you do for the Little Free Library? There will most surely be toil and sweat and tears to come but, as for the reading of books, we shall neither flag nor fail. We shall read them in our homes, we shall read them in the libraries, we shall read them in the parks, and we shall read them on the beaches. We shall never, never, never give up reading. Moreover, as for donating some of our books to the Little Free Library, may we all bear ourselves such that, were the Little Free Library to stand for years to come, patrons might still look back and say, “This was their finest effort.”



Take a Nature Break at the Ashton House

By Jo Pattschull

Do you need to have a little solitude, a little restoration, in your life? Last week was a busy week for me. I'm moving after 52 years in our grand old family home. I was making a delivery to Ashton House, down by the river at the end of Park Road. After the delivery I decided to take a walk around the property grounds, now being restored by Project GREEN, because it was one of those warm, absolutely perfect last days of fall. After I wandered on the grounds, now neatly prepared for winter, the river lured me to enjoy its restful flow. So I parked myself on one of the newly installed benches along the trail and just sat and enjoyed the flow of the river and the birds that flitted through the trees. It was so relaxing.

The next day I invited a friend and her dog to enjoy the spot with me. We brought food for an early supper and sat on the bench and watched the river flow



on. Soon we were entertained by the women's crew team, which was rowing downstream—little noise, just the dipping of oars in the water. A few ducks flew by. Then we became aware of a lot of twittering in the treetops - the grackles

were gathering for their migration south. Just as the setting sun met the treetops the birds rose up and created a second flowing river of black bodies and wings. One wave after another the flight stream went on and on for close to an hour. As the sun reached the horizon, the birds disappeared and it was silence once again.

Winter will come and the river will continue to flow. There will be more opportunities to enjoy the solitude, the swaying trees, and the winter birds, and maybe even watch

the eagles returning. The bench will still be there waiting for you to restore your friendship with Mother Nature. ❧

An Ashton House Volunteer Tells All

By Sue Terveer-Mullins

We've all heard this quote: "Many hands make light work." That is exactly what happens on Monday mornings at the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens, from May through October. Volunteers help beautify the eight-acre grounds from 9 to 11-AM under the excellent weekly guidance of Diane Allen, co-president of Project GREEN. She always makes volunteers feel welcome, and her sense of humor provides a lot of laughter. Diane is an experienced gardener who helps us divide and conquer typical tasks, including planting, weeding, deadheading, and watering.

If you're looking for a gratifying volunteer opportunity, this dedicated group of gardeners will welcome you. In my 30 years of volunteering for Project GREEN I can truly say I have met and nourished some of my dearest friends through various volunteer endeavors. I look forward to Monday mornings. This stunning property is a delight to the senses. I know I'll always leave with a sense of group accomplishment and pride in community volunteering. Plus, as long as I've got my garden clothes on already, I can head home and continue working in my own home garden. What a great way to start the week!

If you'd like to volunteer at the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens, contact Diane Allen at 319-430-6649 or email: dlallen16@hotmail.com. ❧

Note from a grateful neighbor

Dear Diane and all of the Ashton House Volunteers,

The work you do to make the Ashton House a garden showcase in Iowa City is much appreciated! As a neighbor of the Ashton House, I can assure you that it is enjoyed by many who walk, bike, or drive by. I see more and more people each year sitting on the benches, looking at the gardens and watching for eagles from this beautiful area. Your work has not gone unnoticed!

Sincerely,

Becky Hall

Project GREEN note: Becky Hall has filled containers and the entrance pillar planter for many winters with welcoming greenery for visitors to view at the Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens. Becky also volunteers with the team of Project GREEN gardeners which donates time and energy to the gardens. ❧



OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND 2022 IS A SUCCESS!

By Beth Cody



You never know what beautiful backyard may lie behind these signs, waiting to be discovered and enjoyed by garden visitors.

Project GREEN's Open Gardens Weekend 2022 took place the weekend of July 9-10. The annual garden tour event featured 28 private gardens and 5 public gardens located in Iowa City and Coralville, many of which had never been opened to the public. The weather was perfect, and hundreds of garden visitors enjoyed touring the wide variety of gardens offered. Holding the event over two days allowed time for friendly chats between garden owners and visitors - a wonderful opportunity to meet neighbors and enjoy beautiful gardens at the same time!



The creatively constructed strombrella in Samantha Wittrock and Ryan Dusil's garden received much interest from visitors.

New this year at the Project GREEN Ashton House headquarters was a sale of donated garden containers, which proved to be quite the crowd pleaser and a sellout. For 2023, we plan to offer donated garden statuary and garden art for sale.

Nine local businesses stepped up to sponsor the Open Gardens Weekend 2022, allowing the garden visits to take place free of charge. Maps showing the participating gardens were available at the sponsor locations, and also at the Ashton House during the



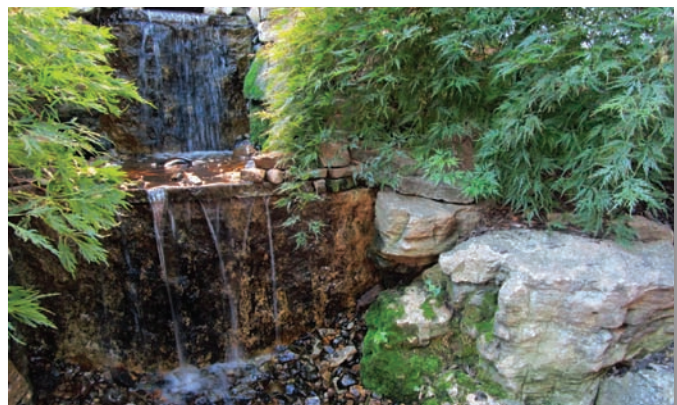
One of the many lovely spots in passionate gardener Janine Martin's flower garden.

event. We are so grateful for the generosity of our 2022 business sponsors:

City of Coralville
Forever Green Garden Center
GreenState Credit Union
Hills Bank and Trust Company
Iowa City Landscaping & Garden Center
Rindy, Inc.
Sanders Creek Company Garden Center
Think Iowa City
Urban Acres Real Estate

Sponsor funding covered the costs of the event and the remaining funds are used to support Project GREEN's community beautification projects.

The Open Gardens Weekend 2023 will be held the weekend of July 8 - 9, 2023, and we would love to include your garden. If you know of a beautiful garden in Iowa City or Coralville, please let us know the address and we'll contact the garden owner. We will also be seeking donations of garden statuary and garden art to sell that weekend. We greatly appreciate your help in spreading the word about Open Gardens Weekend 2023! 🌿



This limestone waterfall is a hidden treasure in the Dancer's Garden conifer display on the UI campus.

Project GREEN Contributors for 2021

GIFTS OF \$1000 or more

*Anonymous
Bryan and Virginia Clemons
Bruce Gantz
in memory of Mary Gantz
River Products Co.
in memory of Mick and Jayne Lillig
Dr. William Rubright
in memory of Emilie J. Rubright
John Thomas and Sarah Clark

GIFTS OF \$500 – \$999

Diane and Larry Allen
in memory of Jane Allen Morrow
Fern Allison
Don and Dorothy Fowles
John and Mary Jo Langhorne
Yvonne McCabe
in memory of Mary Gantz
Margaret Neumann
Steve Price and Jan Myatt
Frank and Gail Zlatnik

GIFTS OF \$200 – \$499

Susan Ahrens
Connie and Edward Brinton
Peggy Burke
Daniel and Terry Caplan
Cat Clinic of Iowa City
Open Gardens Weekend sponsorship
Jim and Syndy Conger
in memory of David Evans
Douglas Dejong
Susan Enzle and Gene Savin
Sandra Eskin
Forever Green Garden Center
Open Gardens Weekend sponsorship
Connie Funk
John and Beth Hieronymus
in memory of Al and Freda Hieronymus
Hills Bank and Trust Company
Open Gardens Weekend sponsorship
Char Hinrichs
Joe and Nancy Holland
*Margery Hoppin
HyVee
Open Gardens Weekend sponsorship
Iowa City Landscaping
Open Gardens Weekend sponsorship
Iowa Poetry Association
in memory of Max Molleston
Joni Jones

*John and Patricia Koza
John Kramer and Kathy Robinson-Kramer
Mary Laughlin and Roger Swartz
John Menninger
Sam Mullins and Sue Terveer-Mullins
Srini Rajagopal
Rindy Inc.
Open Gardens Weekend sponsorship
William and Marlene Stanford
Tallgrass Business Resources
Open Gardens Weekend sponsorship
Neil and Joyce Trott
Urban Acres Real Estate
Open Gardens Weekend sponsorship
Anne and Byron Vandenberg

GIFTS OF \$100 – \$199

Kendall and Alice Atkinson
John and Penny Balmer
Larry and Beverly Blades
Jacqueline Blank
Paula O. Brandt
Karen Chappell
Mike and Judy Cilek
Katherine Clifton
Laurie and Dan Cummins
David Curry and Donna Friedman
in memory of Ann E. Curry
Ranee and John Fiesemann
Michael Finnegan
Karin Franklin
Susan J. Frye
Jerome Full and Jan Olive
William Gay
Thomas and Laura Hahn
Anne Hesse
Thomas and Jeri Hobart
Paul and Monica Hoherz
H. Dee and Myrene Hoover
in memory of Al and Freda Hieronymus
Kenn and Jan Hubel
Patricia King
in memory of Carolyn Duncan
William and Judith Klink
John and Claudia Knutson
Karl and Vicki Lonngren
Gary and Sharon Lust
Jerry and Patricia Meis
Reese and Jo Morgan
Margaret Nelson
in memory of Dorothy Moeller
Mike O'Leary
Dick and Jo Pattschull

Doug and Linda Paul
Bonnie Penno
in memory of Laurie Hess
Marlene Perrin
Stan and Pat Podhajsky
Joe and Sherry Pugh
Martha Rasmussen
in memory of Lida Mary Slemmons Sigg
David and Janice Ricklefs
Dale and Patricia Roberts
Jean Prior Sandrock
*Linda Schreiber
in memory of Judy Best
William and Winifred Scott
in memory of Marilyn Long
Dwight and Melinda Seegmiller
Bob and Marlene Seydel
Michael Shasby
Connie R. Smith
in memory of Keith and EmmieLou Hora
Sondra Smith
John and Elizabeth Stratton
Dick and Joyce Summerwill
in memory of Mary Gantz
Kristin Summerwill
Susan E. Sweeney
in memory of Luke J. Flaherty
John and Janet Tiffany
Rhoda Vernon
Jean Walker
Jim and Chris Walters
Gary and Deb Wrede
Cathy Zaharis

GIFTS UP TO \$99

Lynette Adams
to honor Joan Parsons
Patricia Addis
Minette Black
to honor Karen Chappell
Alicia Brown-Matthes
Doug and Julie Busch
David and Angie Bywater
in memory of Bonnie Broesder Hauser
Jeanne Cadoret
Melanie Cleveland
Terry Dahms
Helene Donta
to honor Antoinette and Floyd Begin
Jane Dorman
Jim and Jan Down
in memory of Carolyn Duncan

Carolyn Gardner
 David Gerleman
 in memory of Joyce Gerleman
 Leon and Deborah Green
 Nancy Hamel
 Carroll and Barb Hanson
 Nadine Hardy
 in memory of Allan James Hardy
 Bill and Jean Hines
 Marguerite Humphreys
 Joe and Sandy Joynt
 Kathy Kleinow
 William and Judith Knabe
 Gene and Carole Knutson
 Becky Leaven
 Bonnie Love
 Mike and Joanne Margolin

Mary McCarthy
 to honor Phil Lange
 Julia and Phil Mears
 Linda Meloy
 Sally Mills
 Julie Neuzil
 Carrie Z. Norton
 in memory of Mary Gantz
 Sharon Raffensperger
 in memory of Carolyn Duncan
 Jack and Trudi Rosazza
 Jackie Sangster
 in memory of Mary Gantz
 Linda and Gene Schuchert
 David and Sandra Schuldt
 Marsha Simpson
 in memory of Carolyn Duncan

Rina and Richard Sjolund
 Curt and Nancy Steyers
 Sally Stutsman
 Art Tellin
 Nan Trefz
 Eugene and Nancy Wehrheim
 Bob and Eunice Welsh
 Pat and Betty White
 Harold Williamson
 Larry Wilson and Mary Matthew
 Wetherill Winder
 Shirley Wyrick

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

Reflections ... Looking Back, Moving Forward

By Cindy Parsons

The Past. When I think of all the wonderful Project GREEN volunteers I've met over the years, I am amazed and I am so grateful. Our organization has always been comprised of volunteers with charitable hearts who value community. I've been involved with our all-volunteer organization since the early 1970's, when I began helping my mom, Joan Parsons, with the Trees, Shrubs and Vines booth at the GREEN Garden Fair which back then was held at the Johnson County Fairgrounds.

Many of the early Project GREEN volunteers are no longer with us or are physically unable to garden. We're so very fortunate that they shared their extensive gardening knowledge, along with countless numbers of perennials, trees, and shrubs which they lovingly grew and contributed to our community. Their support has taken root, demonstrating that the spirit of giving is alive and growing.

In the midst of a major urban renewal project, our founders launched Project GREEN in 1968 with a vision of enhancing, preserving, and improving our local natural environment. The mission then, as it is now, was to offer an

inviting environment in which to live, work, and play and to ensure that our community provided its citizens and visitors with attractive, welcoming green spaces. Through the years, our GREEN impact has extended throughout our entire community. We are so proud of their dream and efforts.



Volunteers for the 1987 GREEN Garden Fair included Nancy Seiberling, Pat Vunderink, Lorie Leo, Ann Glenister, and Gretchen Harshbarger (seated.)

The Future. We invite you to honor the vision and commitment of our founders and past volunteers, who contributed in so many meaningful ways to benefit our community, with your financial support. You can invest in our organization and make an everlasting impact and receive immediate tax advantages as well.

Your generous support will build a stronger, more beautiful community. A gift will sustain our namesake project – Project GREEN Gardens at the historic

Ned Ashton House at 820 Park Road. Your tax-deductible gift can be made via the City of Iowa City with the enclosed envelope, through our website at www.projectgreen.org, or to our Project GREEN Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Johnson County, which can provide an additional 25% tax credit.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated!☘

PROJECT GREEN

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

Return Service Requested



Visit the Ashton House Gardens

Please Plant Trees

CLIP AND SAVE

Project GREEN 2023 Winter Garden Forums

All forums are located at the Iowa City Public Library, 123 South Linn Street, room A.

These forums are free to the public. Check our website www.projectgreen.org for more information.

January 8, Sunday 2 p.m.

“What’s New in the Garden?”

Presented by Dawn Bouslog

February 12, Sunday 2 p.m. “Naturalizing Roadside: Making a More Beautiful Iowa”

Presented by Chris Henze

March 12, Sunday 2 p.m.

“A Greener Tomorrow”

Presented by Jane Wilch

May 1, Monday 9 - 11 a.m. First day for

Ashton House Project GREEN Gardens

volunteers. We will meet in the parking lot at 820 Park Road. Anyone interested in joining our band of gardeners contact dlallen16@hotmail.com. All are welcome!

July 8 - 9, Saturday - Sunday
Open Gardens Weekend

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
319-930-9985

Becky Gelman,
garden forums
319-351-5852

Linda Schreiber,
garden forums chair /
communications
310-936-8600

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.