

# News Letter

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Civic Center, Iowa City, Iowa 52240  
[www.projectgreen.org](http://www.projectgreen.org)

  
**PROJECT GREEN**

PUBLISHED IN EARLY SPRING AND LATE FALL

FALL 2011

## GREEN Garden Fair 2011: 42nd Year of Success

By Fern Allison, Barb Gartner, and Karen Chappell

Project GREEN's 42nd annual GREEN Garden Fair was held on May 7, 2011, at Carver-Hawkeye Arena. It proved to be a wonderful sunny day, with shoppers waiting in line before the doors opened, ready to start their spring gardens. The plants offered by Project GREEN—all are hardy to this area—had been potted and nurtured by our many volunteers, whose hard work provided a grand variety of sunny and shade perennials, trees, shrubs, vines, and groundcovers.

Because of construction on the arena we were able to set up a more spacious arrangement for the plants and the different booth areas. This seemed to work out extremely well, and we are hopeful that we can use this arrangement for future fairs.

A special thank you to Judy Allen for her donation of garden art, and to the many professionals who staffed information booths, including Master Gardeners, DNR specialists, the DNR district forester, Iowa City Community Compost program, and Johnson County Heritage Trust. A special thank you, also, to the Leaf Kitchen for providing energizing food and coffee in our café area.

After two hours of busy shopping, there were very few plants left, and those were donated to Chatham Oaks, the Master Gardeners' sale, and Linda Schreiber's downtown project. We thank every volunteer whose effort made this 42nd fair such a success. Whether you donated, lined out, or potted, worked at the fair, or just spread the word, we appreciate your time and support!



This year the fair netted \$17,312.33 for the Iowa City Green Fund, to be used for landscape projects throughout the Iowa City area and for school grants.

Volunteers are always needed for the many tasks related to Project GREEN and the fair. Contact any of the garden fair members to volunteer. We have something for everyone to do and we always welcome new volunteers!

The 2012 fair will be held on Saturday, May 5, at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

Mark your calendars! We hope to see you at the fair next spring!



### Devotay Restaurant and Project GREEN. . . An Evening of Fine Dining

Devotay Restaurant is offering Benefit Sunday on November 13, 2011, from 5 to 9 p.m. for Project GREEN volunteers and friends. This is a great opportunity to raise funds for Project GREEN. All you have to do is spread the word, make reservations for anytime between 5 and 9 at 319-354-1001, and enjoy a delicious dinner.

Devotay will donate 10–30 percent of the evening's sales to Project GREEN, depending on how many people come in for dinner. Devotay is marketing its generosity through social networks, email, and elsewhere.

Please help to get the word out, and don't forget to make reservations!



# Garden Tour Glory

By AK Traw, Mo Harding, Pam Stewart, and Gail Zlatnik

After our dry and very hot summer, it's hard to remember the earlier weeks of rain and windstorms! But the Project GREEN Garden Tour angels smiled on Sunday, June 26, and presented us with a beautiful day. Over 750 people joined the tour, the second-highest attendance in the past 10 years. Five settings varied in size, style, design features, and plantings. Their only similarity was either partial or complete shade, which was conquered with inspired landscape planning, garden art, and intriguing plant choices. The host gardeners also found effective solutions to boggy soil, invasive plants, and destructive critters.

Charming and compact, the garden of Anna and Carolyn Boerner at 237 Lexington Avenue was tidy, precise, delightful, and utterly achievable. Curved stone terraces, a flagstone patio, a garden fountain, and custom metalwork enhanced colorful flower beds, manicured lawns, and cool green shrubbery. For these sisters, the garden tour was a splendid and final hurrah to a lifetime of memories on this property, since they moved to Oaknoll Retirement Residence at the end of the summer.

In contrast, Nora and Bill Steinbrech's lot at 404 Magowan Avenue reflected a different gardening personality. Calling herself and her garden style "random abstract," Nora has created a shadeland vision in woodland wildflowers, 25 varieties of beautiful ferns, and lush perennials that spread happily under a leafy canopy. A fenced avenue built around the perimeter provided a romp in the shade for Scottish terriers, an antique candle sconce hovered over the patio table, and a blue-bottle tree stopped the evil spirits from entering this neighborhood paradise.

Hundreds of trees, shrubs, perennials, and wildflowers have replaced ravines choked with poison ivy at Don Bolin and Liz Hall's three-acre property at 7 Valley View Place NE, one full acre of which hosts their enchanting woodland garden. Tour-goers merrily lost their way navigating the winding paths, and marveled over the 300 varieties of hosta, 20 species of gingers, pineapple and voodoo lilies, Asian jack-in-the-pulpits, 50 Japanese maples, a goldfish pond, and a babbling brook. A 300-pound stone angel dubbed "Hernia" and a seven-foot-high gargoyle named "Uboughtwhat?" ruled over numerous artistic features, metal trellises, and inscribed pathway stones.

Barb and Chuck Clark's landscaping efforts at 9 Wildberry Court NE were altered over the years, thanks to deer and wet clay soil. Half of their 3.5-acre property has been converted into a deer-fenced area of evergreens, aspens, Japanese maples, perennials, skillfully potted annuals, rotating copper sculptures, and even a sunny poolside oasis scattered with Rockustics—lowa fieldstone installed with speakers. But what took our visitors' breath away was their forested fairyland complete with huge boulders, streams, and lighted waterfalls. A colorful patch of wildflowers at the foot of the double waterfall added a touch of bright beauty to this amazing garden. This tumbled hillside was stunningly designed and constructed by landscape architect David Biehl.

Carrol and George Woodworth transformed their boggy two-acre property at 14 Westview Acres NE into a thriving wonderland of native dogwoods, spruce, river birch, serviceberry, and witch hazel. An 8-foot trellis-and-mesh fence enclosed the multilevel backyard contoured with trenches and storm drains, berms, swales, and curving perennial beds. This superbly engineered landscape was crowned with astilbe, cranesbill, daylilies, heucheras, sedges, boxwood, oakleaf hydrangea, viburnum, winterberry, and so much more.

A huge thank you goes out to our garden hosts and the numerous volunteers who directed tour-goers and answered countless questions. And of course we were grateful to the garden gods for a truly glorious day!



## Garden Tour 2012: June 24, 2012

The planning for next year's Project GREEN Garden Tour is well on its way, and the date has been set for Sunday, June 24, 2012. Tour-goers can look forward to visiting Linda Dykstra's expansive garden on Rapid Creek Road, and to taking a neighborhood walking tour of many front-yard gardens (and a few backyards, as well) on White Oak Place, just north of the Peninsula area. More information will be available in the spring newsletter and on the PG website.

# Iowa Avenue Landscaping - Then and Now

By Laura Hawks

Iowa Avenue's juniper plantings have declined through the years due to damage from accidents, diseases, or pests, and they soon will be replaced with Dense Yews (*Taxus media* 'Densiformis'). The 'Densiformis' Yews will mature to a 36" height and can attain a width of 6 to 7 feet. The serpentine pattern of the evergreen beds in the median will be retained and the soil will be amended. The serpentine evergreen bed pattern has been a landscape element along Iowa Avenue since 1968. Included with this article is a photo showing the landscaping circa 1975



from the State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City, Project GREEN Collection.

Project GREEN maintains the median along a 5 block stretch of Iowa Avenue, from Gilbert Street to Governor Street. The City maintains the median along block 6, from Governor Street to Muscatine Avenue. Maintenance continues to be an important element for the overall success of this landscape. Project GREEN has provided landscaping along the Iowa Avenue median since 1968. During the early 1990s, Project GREEN updated the Iowa Avenue median landscaping with new plantings, in keeping with the original design. In 2006 after the tornado, damaged plant materials were replaced.

**Throughout this issue you will find garden tips and successes shared by our volunteers. This first one is from Cindy Parsons.**

My garden success for summer 2011 was the rediscovery of zinnias! My daughter was married over Labor Day weekend, and she wanted to grow her own flowers. We started many varieties of zinnia from seed indoors, and sowed some directly outside in the spring. They all thrived despite the dry weather, and provided us with a bounty of cut flowers all summer long. The more we picked, the more profusely they bloomed—and the cut flowers lasted a week or more. The butterflies and hummingbirds loved them as well, for an added bonus. We had plenty of flowers to put in Mason jars on all the wedding tables. We supplemented them with wildflowers, such as goldenrod and grasses, and added some colorful ribbons to the jars. Beautiful! We even fashioned her bouquet from large, bright red blossoms. For a colorful carefree border or bed that pops with a bright mix of color all summer long right up until frost, you can't go wrong with zinnias. A huge variety is available—tall or dwarf, quill-leaved cactus, spider, multicolored, double petals, pompom, and on and on. I will be planting zinnias next spring for sure!

## Displays of Fall Color Accent North Dubuque Street

By Laura Hawks

Displays of fall color accent the hillsides in the Iowa City and Coralville area; when the sun hits the colorful slopes the view is reminiscent of a 'crazy quilt' of colors and textures. Fall color along Iowa City's parkways has been a priority of Project GREEN for many years. This result of this vision is most clearly demonstrated now along North Dubuque Street, where trees this fall have turned all shades of vivid colors. Most notable now are the Black Tupelos (*Nyssa sylvatica*) which have turned a bright scarlet with touches of yellow and orange. Other plant materials with good fall color currently are the 'Autumn Purple White Ash' (*Fraxinus americana*), Blackhaw Viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*), 'Autumn Blaze' Maples (*Acer x freemanii* 'Jeffersred'), Amur Maples (*Acer ginnala*), and Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*). Within the next few weeks, the 'Gro-low' Sumac (*Rhus aromatic* 'Gro-lo') which is helping to stabilize the west slope will turn a bright red, the Witchhazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*) will turn a brilliant yellow, the 'Autumn Spire' Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Autumn Spire') will turn a bright red and the Siebold Viburnum (*Viburnum sieboldii*) will keep its green color until November.

Fall color was initially implemented along the North Dubuque Street parkway through a plan created by Landscape Architect

Gretchen Harshbarger in 1967. This plan achieved wonderful displays of fall color through mass plantings of Amur Maples, Hawthornes, Smooth Sumac, Eastern Redbuds and groupings of Pin Oaks, Flowering Dogwoods and White Pines. A photo of the 1967 plan is included with this article. Through time, some of the mass plantings declined or succumbed to insects, diseases or weather. In 2000 Project GREEN hired Landscape Architect Laura Hawks to create a plan to rejuvenate the landscape along North Dubuque Street, and to solve some drainage and erosion problems. A plan was created where existing remnants of mass plantings were augmented with new plantings of similar character but with more pest and disease resistant varieties. Hawthorne masses were augmented with Blackhaw Viburnums, Wild Plum groupings were enhanced with multi-stem Serviceberries, and existing Eastern Redbud groupings were enhanced with more Eastern Redbud trees. These additions have helped to maintain the goals of the original planting design and have created a parkway which reflects the indigenous landscape that surrounds the Iowa City and Coralville area.



www.projectgreen.org

# Project GREEN Donations September 1, 2010 - August 31, 2011

## \$99.00 OR LESS

Abbott, Mary Jo & Mark  
Baumbach, Janice in memory of Marilyn Long  
Beadle, Gary & Susan  
Bell, JoAnn & James  
Bentz, Dale and Mary Gail  
Berry, Glorine  
Bjorndal, Katharine  
Blake, Larry & Jan  
Bourret, Joan Liffing-Zug  
Breazeale, Richard & Estyl  
Brennan, Tim & Jackie  
Brown-Matthes, Alica to honor Tom Aprile  
Bruner, Larry & Margaret  
Burger, Shirley  
Burke, Peggy  
Buss, Barbara  
Buswell, Patricia  
Carpenter, Janice  
Carter, Sue & Barry  
Catalano, Cosmo & Jo  
Clark, Stella  
Clark, Charles  
Clifton, Katherine  
Corcoran, Jim & Connie  
Curry, David & Donna Friedman to honor Betty Monroe  
Dahms, Terry  
Denehy, Gerald & Janice  
Donta, Helene to honor Floyd & Antoinette Begin  
Doyle, John & F. Christine  
Elliott, C. W.  
Falconer, Joan  
Fellows, Robert & Karlen to honor Mary

Gantz  
Fincham, Linda in memory of Curly Meyers  
Floyd, Lucile  
Hughes, Karen in memory of Marilyn Long & Marilyn Rogers  
Jakobsen, Jane & James  
Jones, Joni  
Knapp, Jacqueline F. in memory of Mary Price  
Knutson, Gene & Carole  
Kottemann, Nan  
LaVelle, Bill & Loretta  
Lawton, Bill & Patsy  
Lindman, Barb  
Logsdon, Kara & Ron  
Mathis Hartwig, Sally  
McGuire, Linda  
McGurk, Marita  
McKusick, Joyce Ashton in memory of Ned L. Ashton  
McPheron, Jon  
Mears, Julia  
Monson, Kevin & Julie to honor Sue Mullins  
Nauseef, Bill & Judy  
Neely, Marilyn  
Nordquist, Gerald & Carol  
Patrick, Genie & Joe  
Pattschull, RW & JE  
Paul, Dorothy  
Penno, Bonnie  
Peterson, Joanne  
Pfeifer, Shirley  
Phair, Elaine  
Powers, Dr. William J & Mrs. Nancy  
Prior Sandroock, Jean  
Prybil, Linda & Eldon

Rossmann, Patty  
Rowley, Elizabeth  
Sangster, Jim & Jackie  
Schulz, Rudy in memory of Charlotte Schulz  
Scott William in memory of Marilyn Long  
Seery, Clyde & Kay  
Shasby, Michael D. & Sandra

## Garden tips from Joanie Parsons.

*I have watered our trees/shrubs/vines line-out rows only once this summer. Mulch is the greatest thing ever, a real weed deterrent and a great time-and-plant saver.*

Simonson, Alice in memory of Wendell Simonson  
Sivitz, Karen and William in memory of Marilyn Long  
Sladek, John & Becky to honor Dave Lenoach & Bev Pennell  
Soper, Dr. Robert & Helene in memory of Marilyn Long  
Sopher, John & Anne  
Spaziani, Carol  
Steele, Oliver & Joy  
Steyers, Curt & Nancy  
Tellin, Art  
Tucker, Betty Lou  
Wagner, Frank  
Walker, Jean  
Walter, Brian & Kay  
Wegman, Marcia  
White, J Patrick & Betty  
Wilson, Larry T. & Mary Matthew  
Wolf, Robert & Erma  
Wolken, Sue

## \$100.00-\$249.00

Anonymous  
Anderson, Julia M.  
Angerer, Loretta  
Blades, Bev & Larry  
Branson, Fredine & Dan  
Braverman, Richard & Phyllis  
Buchanan, Ellen & John  
Byington, Helen & Bill to honor Joan & Cindy Parsons  
Cannon, Joe & Lynne  
Chappell, Karen & Wallace  
Christensen, Jim & Carol  
Cilek, Mary & Tom  
Conger, Syndy M. & Jim F.  
Davis, Tom & Sharon  
Davis, Shari in memory of Barb Chadima  
Downing, Flora & Don  
Fieselmann, Randee & John

## Thanks to our Contributors and Volunteers

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. Each year we spend approximately \$25,000 to provide the upkeep and maintenance on our previous projects such as the Iowa Avenue medians, 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 "on the lookout" for 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 which has been pledged to be used in the Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, for landscaping and plant materials around the lodge and the entrance area. (See the newsletter article on page 6 for more details on this project). This developing park is already scenic and well-used, and it will be a tremendous asset to the area. A huge "thank you" goes out to our contributors and volunteers who make this all possible!



Galask, Gloria  
Hahn, Tom & Laura  
Hayes, James  
Hein, Herman and Carol  
Hesse, Chuck & Anne  
Hines, Bill & Jean  
Hinrichs, Charlene  
Hobart, Thomas

Slager, Marcia  
Smith, Isabelle  
Stanford, Dr. William & Marlene  
Stang, Sharon Kay & Al  
Summerwill, Joan  
Summerwill, Kristin  
Summy, Tom & N. Yvonne Oliver  
Tomanek, Robert & Rita

Sayre, Hutha & Robert  
Schuchert, Gene & Linda  
Shannon, Mrs. Phyllis P. to honor Diane Allen  
Skaugstad, Chuck & Marilyn  
Strauss, John S. & Susan T.  
Zlatnik, Frank & Gail to honor Nancy Seiberling

### **Garden tips from Diane Allen.**

*Does anyone else besides me have trouble supporting plants using stakes and string? I am always disappointed with my efforts and have found an easier method. I've used this method with fall asters and mums that are falling forward. It provides support without the hassle of string. First, insert two plant-height stakes vertically on the left and right sides of the flopping plant. Take a third stake, length depending upon the distance between first two stakes, and place it horizontally, supporting it by the forward leaning of the plant. The pressure of the plant will hold this horizontal stake in place. The three stakes will form the letter H, and it's easy to move the horizontal stake up or down.*

Hoherz, Monica  
Holland, Joe & Nancy  
Hoover, H.Deer & Myrene in memory of Al & Freda Hieronymus  
Hubel, Jan & Kenn in memory of Al Heironymus  
Hubel, Jan & Kenn to honor Nancy Seiberling  
Kasik, Dr. John & Sherle  
Kerber, Linda & Richard in memory of Lew & Eloise January  
Klink, William & Judith  
Koontz, Lucy in memory of Marilyn Long  
Koza, John & Patricia  
Kruse, Mary Lea & Dick to honor Ann Murray  
Lindberg, James & Sara to honor Nancy Seiberling  
Lloyd-Jones, Richard & Jean  
Lonngren, Karl & Vicki  
Mather, Marlyn  
Maurer, Sarah  
Menninger, John  
Morgan, Reese & Jo  
Myatt, Jan, & Steve Price  
Neiman, Richard & Judy  
Noble, Mary to honor Bernadine Knight  
Norton, Carrie  
Nothnagle, John & Gail  
Novick, Naomi  
Osborne, Bill & Marilyn  
Paul, Doug & Linda  
Prediger, Kay & Dale  
Randall, Alberta  
Ray, Dottie in memory of Dorothy Thompson  
Savin, Nathan  
Schroeder, Larry & Judy  
Sifford, Harlan

Tucker, Dick & Buffie  
Vernon, Rhoda  
Walters, Jim & Chris  
Wiley, Robert & Josephine  
Williamson, Harold in memory of Marilyn Long  
Wilson, Charlotte  
Wrede, Gary & Deb  
Ziegler, Ekhard

**\$250.00-\$499.00**  
Barker, Edwin  
Fahr, Elizabeth to honor Nancy Seiberling  
Hood, Albert & Jean in memory of Mary Kane  
Luhman, Lowell & Joan  
Nagel, Alan & Kristin

### **Garden tips from Anne Hesse.**

*Four favorite deer-resistant plants that tolerate woodland shade! Even though these three plants require some sun, they have exhibited peak performance in a shaded woodland garden shifting between shade and sun.*

*The dwarf Norway spruce is a tidy garden shrub or foundation border plant that needs moist soil and protection from hot, drying conditions. Magnolia liliflora 'Ann' (lily magnolia) is a shrublike, elegant, 8-10-foot tree with a prolific purple-red flower that blooms later than the star magnolia and with luck avoids spring frosts. The perennial hellebore (Helleborus), also known as the Lenten rose, blooms with only a hint of spring and holds its nodding flowers for many weeks. The fourth favorite plant in my woodland garden is the Christmas fern, a leathery, stiffly upright evergreen plant that increases in clump size, but does not have an invasive underground root system. All of these are pest- and disease-resistant after seventeen years in our landscape.*

*When in doubt, plant daffodils.*

### **\$500.00-\$999.00**

City High Interact Club  
Colloton, Mary Ann  
Iowa City Yoga Festival  
Leff, Joyce & Phil  
McCabe, Yvonne to honor Shirley Lekin  
Noyes, Russell & Martha  
Summerwill, Joyce & Dick  
Wilson, Herb & Janice

### **\$1000.00 OR MORE**

Willis, Craig & Nancy/ Security Abstract Co.

MidAmerican Energy Trees Please Grant  
Smith, Connie in memory of Keith and Emma Lou Hora

### **BUSINESS AND IN-KIND DONORS**

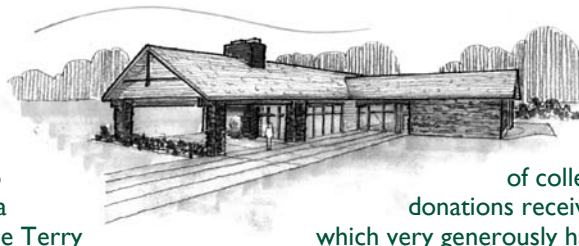
Judy Allen Garden Art  
Eastside HyVee  
Goosetown Graphics  
Iowa City Landscaping  
Leff Law Offices  
Quality Care  
Ed Rinderspacher/Rindy's Inc.  
River Products Company, Inc.  
Tallgrass Business Resources (formerly Frohwein Office Plus)

# Project GREEN Partners with City of Iowa City on Terry Trueblood Park

By Tammy Neumann, Iowa City Parks and Recreation Dept.

Several years of study and preparation have led to the creation of the plans that will develop and enhance existing Sand Lake, which is located adjacent to Gilbert Street at the south side of Iowa City. In 2010 this park was renamed the Terry Trueblood Recreation Area in honor of Terry Trueblood, who was Iowa City's Parks and Recreation Director from 1986 until his death from cancer in 2009.

This park will be the biggest park in Iowa City. The property includes 207 acres on the City's south side. Within that space is a 95.5 acre lake which is already being used, as well as a recently completed two mile paved trail. Total project cost, including land acquisition, construction, landscaping and consultants fees is estimated at \$7.6 million. The financing plan for Terry Trueblood Recreation Area includes several sources. One of these sources came to us in the form of a Vision Iowa Grant in the amount of \$1.6 million. However to retain this grant, the city is required



to raise an additional \$400,000. These private funds include donations and pledges from local and area citizens, businesses, and industry.

While the city is still in the process of collecting these funds, one of our largest donations received to date comes from Project GREEN which very generously has pledged \$75,000 towards this project. These funds will be used for landscaping and plant materials around the planned lodge and adjacent entrance area.

It is with tremendous gratitude that the Board of Directors of the Iowa City Department of Parks & Recreation Foundation accepted this generous gift to the Terry Trueblood Recreation Area Capital Project. This donation will help tremendously toward the campaign goal and will help to secure the Vision Iowa Grant in the amount of \$1.6 million.

For years to come, our thoughtfully planned Terry Trueblood Recreation Area will serve Iowa City and the surrounding area with dignity and pride that can be shared by Project GREEN.

## Garden tips from Melanie Hauptert.

For a long time I have enjoyed the plant Baptisia. It is tall and full and maintains its shape throughout the summer, forming wonderful seedpods after it blooms. This 4+-foot-tall shrubby plant usually sports blue or purple flowers similar to snapdragons in form. My newest discovery is Baptisia with yellow flowers. It seems as robust as its blue and purple cousins and is so pretty with blue, purple, or silver. I found my plants in Illinois at the Hornbaker Nursery. (They may have been available in Iowa City, but I didn't see them here). I hope you try and enjoy this new-to me plant.

I have a cluster of Blush Knock Out roses in front of my house. At first I deadheaded them like other roses, but I have found that their new growth comes from a place on the stem much closer to the spent flowers. They seem to bloom more robustly if I pinch off the old flower at its base rather than cutting farther down on the stem.

I have planted a Clematis texensis hybrid ('Princess Diana') in the midst of the Blush Knock Out roses. It is on a trellis and does very well. This year, the heat was hard on all my clematis, however.

## Keeping it GREEN Downtown

By Linda Schreiber, [Inschreiber@gmail.com](mailto:Inschreiber@gmail.com) or 319-936-8600

Thanks to Project GREEN founders Nancy Seiberling and Gretchen Harshbarger, the City of Iowa City is enjoying a hosta garden downtown. Many years ago, Nancy and Gretchen helped me begin my hosta beds. Rich Iowa soil, gentle rains, and a few years—and I had too many hostas for my property and for Project GREEN beneficiaries . . . so I started a gift to the city by planting hostas in the downtown ped mall garden beds.

Downtown plantings are not new. Sheri Thomas and her City crews have planted annuals in and around the downtown as long as there has been a pedestrian mall. Nor is the effort new to the longtime Project GREEN volunteers who became early adopters

of the planter boxes in the heart of the city.

In June 2008 (yup, the year of the great flood in eastern Iowa), the Mister and I began to plant hostas downtown. To date, my Project GREEN training—you know what I mean—dividing plants in the fall and creating line-out beds—has expanded my hosta knowledge enough to place nearly 400 plants this year and nearly 2,700 plants overall since the plant project began four years ago.

The project isn't limited to downtown, and I've planted not just hostas—daylilies, sedums, and irises joined sweet potato vines this past summer.

You can get involved, keep up your Project GREEN training, and create positive publicity for our organization. I invite Project GREEN volunteers interested in donating plants or working downtown during the growing season to give me a call or send an email. The City of Iowa City would welcome garden contributions for other areas, and both volunteers and plants will be received with enthusiasm and gratitude.



# Project GREEN + ICPL = 2012 Garden Forums

By Mary Lowder

**February 12, 2–4 p.m.**

**Zora Ronan, “Daylilies—All the Pretty Faces”**

Zora Ronan, from Central City, IA, is a member of and a garden judge for the American Hemerocallis Society. In this forum, she will explore the many forms, patterns, and colors in the daylily world. She will show you what to look for and how to select the very best daylilies for your garden.

Certificates for three of Zora’s special daylilies will be offered as door prizes at this forum.



**March 4, 2–4 p.m.**

**Dick Baker, “One Acre at a Time”**

A retired UI professor of geology, Dick will describe the joys and the difficulties he has experienced trying to increase biodiversity, preserve native communities, decrease erosion, and reduce habitat loss on his property in Cedar County, IA.



**April 1, 2:30–5 p.m.**

*(Note time change!)*

**Susan Applegate-Hurst, “From Plant to Plate: Growing and Using Herbs”**

Herbs bring you to the perfect intersection of easy gardening and flavorful cooking. Find out how to start your own herb garden, whether it’s in a few

flower pots or in a backyard plot. Learn how to raise, harvest, and preserve your own freshly snipped herbs. Susan will offer many great growing tips and recipes in this presentation.

Susan is the former editor and publisher of *IowaGardener.com* and the *Iowa Gardener’s Guide*. She was also employed at the Meredith Corporation as the associate editor for *Country Gardens*, editor of *Garden Shed*, and senior associate editor for garden and outdoor living at *Better Homes and Gardens*. She speaks at consumer garden shows and symposia every year and has also served as a judge for the APLD Landscape Design Awards and AHS Book awards. She is the owner of Applehurst in Winterset, IA, a store carrying herbs, art, antiques, Iowa wines, and more.

## Garden tips from Mary Lowder.

Things I will repeat next year:

Pink turtlehead (*Chelone obliqua speciosa*). I bought one at the GREEN Garden Fair in May and planted it in a fairly sunny spot. By fall, this area didn’t get much sun but that is when the turtlehead put on its show. How nice to have something blooming happily in August–September! The plant grew like a weed. Thanks to Melanie Hauptert for this suggestion.

Schultz’s plant food (10–15–10). I have long appreciated this fertilizer for house plants but never thought to use it outside. About July, I started adding it to my potted annuals’ water and was really happy with the results. It’s so easy to use since there is an eyedropper that comes with the bottle. I just gave my watering can a couple of squirts. I kept the Schultz and the watering can together so I wouldn’t forget. Coleus ‘Kingswood Torch.’ It’s mostly red with a green pattern and it looks terrific with hostas. I put three in pots to elevate them and let them peek out around a monster Hosta ‘Sagee.’ Smashing!

## GREEN Grants and West High’s Ecocentric Club

By Mary Gantz

In the spring of 2011, Anna Egeland and Eleanor Marshall, students at West High School and members of the WHS Ecocentric Club, contacted Project GREEN to inquire about possible financial support for some new trees for the front campus at their school. The Ecocentric Club and their advisor, Kerri Barnhouse, had already contacted Mark Vitosh, a professional forester with the Department of Natural Resources (and author of a children’s book!), and utilized his wide knowledge of possible funding sources for projects such as this one.

After meeting with a representative of Project GREEN and Mr. Vitosh, the students decided on locations for the trees, limiting their number to five varieties to be certain they could maintain them adequately for the first year. Varieties were carefully chosen to add to the diversity of species on the West High campus. The trees were planted just before the close of the school year, and have benefited from the attentions of club members throughout the summer.

Project GREEN offers enthusiastic congratulations to Egeland and Marshall for taking the initiative to complete this project. They are among the very select group of students who on their own have contacted Project GREEN for assistance with a creative GREEN-ready project.



(from right to left) Ben West, Evan McCarthy, Javier Miranda-Bartlett, Leah Murray, Caroline VanVoorhis, Margaret Shultz, Anna Egeland, and Eleanor Marshall.



(from left to right) Caroline VanVoorhis, Leah Murray, Margaret Shultz, and Anna Egeland.



# PROJECT GREEN

Civic Center

410 E. Washington St.

Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Return Service Requested



## Please plant trees

### Wanted: Garden Fair Plant Donations!



The GREEN Garden Fair booths are always looking for more varieties of plants to offer our customers. We have posted a list of "wanted" varieties on our website at [www.projectgreen.org](http://www.projectgreen.org). Please check the list to see if you have a variety or two to donate for next spring's sale.

#### Garden tips from Shirley Lakin.

Do you have a hydrangea that never blooms? In the fall bend the branches down to the ground and weight down with something heavy. Try using a pole or board with bricks or heavy rocks on the end. Then cover with leaves and put wire over leaves to secure them from winter breezes. Uncover in the spring. I had a 'Nikko Blue' hydrangea that had not bloomed since the first year I got it. First year I tried this method, it was covered with blooms the following summer.

### Project GREEN Officers

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#### Project GREEN Upcoming Events

##### Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011

Devotay Dining to Benefit Project GREEN  
5-9 pm, Call 319-354-1001 for reservations

##### Sunday, February 12, 2012

Sunday Garden Forum  
2-4 pm, Zora Ronan, "Daylillies - All the Pretty Faces"

##### Sunday, March 4, 2012

Sunday Garden Forum  
2-4 pm, Dick Baker, "One Acre at a Time"

##### Sunday, April 1, 2012

Sunday Garden Forum  
2:30-5 pm, Susan Appleget-Hurst, "From Plant to Plate: Growing and Using Herbs"

##### Saturday, May 5, 2012

43rd GREEN Garden Fair and Plant Sale  
9 am-Noon, Carver Hawkeye Arena

##### Sunday, June 24, 2012

Annual Project GREEN Garden Tour  
Time T.B.A.

