April 2012

Dear Friends,

What a year it has been at the Arboretum! Thanks to the generous support of the Cedar Valley and dedication of hundreds of volunteers, we saw tremendous growth in 2011. We were able to expand our summer education programs; host numerous public and private events; expand existing gardens; and even build a new barn!

How are we able to do all of this? The Arboretum, with diverse education programs and events as our plant collections, is strategically placed to offer significant contributions to our community. We are steadfast stewards of the land and resources entrusted in us and strive to provide gardens that engage visitors of all ages and to teach our young people the importance of protecting our natural resources.

The following pages show just a glimpse of our 2011 events, activities and improvements. I hope you will take a few minutes to review all these opportunities made possible through the creativity and dedication of Arboretum volunteers and staff.

See you in the gardens,

Cindy Wells

Cindy Wells
Arboretum Board President
Youth Education

In the summer months of June and July, the Children’s Garden was full of activities and laughter:

- Super Sprouts (ages 18 months to 3 years) picnicked in the gardens with their teddy bears, discovered creepy crawlies in the gardens, and many more adventures!
- Terrific Tadpoles (ages 3 through 5) discovered the many different types of wildlife found in the garden, from slithering snakes, buzzing bees, talking turtles, and friendly fish.
- Friend Frogs (ages 6 through 8) learned about the many aspects of growing gardens. Youth conducted experiments with mud, vermicomposting, water, sun and much more.

Weekly story time was also a big success! Guest readers shared with us fun nature-inspired stories and we made take-home crafts to match each story time theme. A lot of fun was had in the sandbox and youth loved watching the trains go round and round in the Railroad Garden. The finale of each week’s story time was feeding Jake the Snake. Jake lives at in the Education Center during the summer and then moves to Orange Elementary for the school year.
The Education Committee’s goal for 2011 adult classes was to develop a series of fun hand’s on opportunities that would inspire novice and expert gardeners alike. We started the season with hypertufa container making, where participants made their own containers to take home. (Hypertufa containers are natural, weather-resistant vessels similar to cement or terracotta, but minus the weight, making them easier to use for the average home gardener.)

Later in the spring, Heidi Tietz DeSilva came out to share what was new in garden design, colors and containers as well new annuals and perennials on the market for 2011. After seeing all the beautiful plant material first hand, participants were inspired to run home and get their gardens planted!

Billie Hemmer and Stephanie Witte from the UNI Botanical Center hosted a wonderful class on incorporating tropical plants into our containers. Each participant even went home with a full container of beautiful plants!

June was our Garden of Eatin’ Summer Series. One of the highlights of the month was a fresh cooking class sponsored by Crossroads’ Hy-Vee. Chef William demonstrated a variety of kitchen techniques while making a tasty and healthy meal. As he sliced and diced, Dietitian Stephanie explained the many health benefits.

We ended the summer with Kay Rewerts’ photography in the gardens class. This perennial favorite taught us how to focus on landscape techniques and highlight solutions to problems specific to outdoor photography. And once the gardens were put to bed for the season, we got in the holiday season with our annual wreath making class in November.
Thanks to the generous support of our community and hundreds of volunteer hours, the 2011 growing season was very successful. We saw tremendous growth across the Arboretum and laid a strong foundation for significant improvements in the 2012 season.

Listed below are a few of our biggest accomplishments:

• A new John Deere riding mower (Z950A Pro Z-Trak Mower) was added to the fleet in early spring.

• Years of planning and discussion finally came to fruition this season with the completion of our barn on the southwest corner of the parking lot. This new space houses all of our equipment, material and tools as well as a work space for building projects.
• At the beginning of the season, Education Center floors were resurfaced, touch-up painting was done in the restrooms and main room, and a ceiling fan was added to the main room. These improvements were needed to create a more inviting space for Arboretum events and private rentals.

• For several years, the garden space south of the Education Center has been neglected. Members of the Planning & Operations Committee made significant improvements to this space, now called it the Rock Garden. Volunteers made hypertufa containers to highlight succulents along the walkway and 32 varieties of succulents were ordered online. The committee will continue to develop this space in 2012.

• Improvements to the Rose Garden have been a multi-year project, with the original money for donations in December 2008 and January 2009. The pergola, 4 planters, spring-flowering bulbs and companion plants were added in 2010 with the pergola patio completed this fall. Wapsie Pines Landscaping installed the two-toned stone patio and reshaped the space to create an informal stage, creating the perfect meeting space for weddings. Center stage is a beautiful oak leaf in red brick with intricate vein detailing.

• Several years ago, the Shade Garden was expanded with the addition of several new varieties of hostas. The space was relatively untouched since then and was in great need of attention. Most of the hostas were divided to create space to better showcase the different colors, textures and forms found in this extensive collection. New walkways and seating areas were also added. New redbuds added as understory trees. Funding for the new trees came from Green Scene.
The Tree Committee, a sub-committee of the Planning and Operations Committee, came together this past winter to review our tree collection files. What they found was an outdated, confusing system for documenting our collection. This year they have already:

- Changed software to organize tree information with current technology.
- Recorded each of the 37 varieties of the 600 trees and created a new database.
- Placed signs in each of 6 sections that lists the tree varieties and the Tribute Trees in each section. Visitors will be able to find Tribute Trees more easily and realize the variety the collection offers.
- Placed signage on all trees and replaced faded signs. Ensured that all Tribute Trees’ engraved signs are correct, and the trees are in excellent health.

The committee will work on creating additional print material from records created to better equip staff, volunteers and visitors.
Events Committee
Marla Edler
Cyndie Franklin (Chair)
Wendy Hudson
Bea Koontz
Mary McGeough
Dorothy Wright

Fall Harvest Festival
Steering Committee
Barbara Brown
Lindsey Corson
Carol Folkers
Billie Hemmer
Linda Holmes
Sara Jansen
Cassie Luze
Kathy Payne
Cindy Wells (Chair)
Melissa Wells

Fall Harvest Festival
Thanks to the generous support of many, the Arboretum’s 13th Annual Fall Harvest Festival was a wonderful weekend enjoyed by many. The 2011 theme was Mother Goose Rhyming with the Times. The festival was enjoyed by over 1,200 visitors, despite the dreary weather.

Thank you to the event’s major Sponsors: City of Waterloo Hotel Motel Tax Fund, Crossroads Center, John Deere Waterloo Operations, Lincoln Savings Bank, Service Roofing Co., John & Cheryl Waters, and Mix 93.5.

Thank you also to the business and individual in-kind donors and scarecrow sponsors, over 125 volunteers, and free entertainers.

In its second year, Wine & Scarecrows was a fundraising event with all proceeds helping support the Arboretum’s general fund. Guests sipped wine while strolling through the music-filled gardens, enjoyed various artists sharing their talents, bid on silent auction items, and enjoyed a delicious light meal in the gardens.
FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL
WEEKEND EVENT DONORS

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Thank you! As a donor, you are a leader in helping us fulfill our mission by helping us meet our day to day needs. We aren’t an organization heavily funded by state or local funds – we are a public garden built fifteen years ago by volunteers for this community. We leverage the grants awarded to us for major construction projects so we can use the money you entrust with us for our daily operations.

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Have you considered putting the Arboretum in your will? Besides a bequest, there are also many ways to give a planned gift to the Arboretum. The Arboretum will be happy to work with you or your financial advisor concerning this. One planned giving option is to donate to the Arboretum's Endowment Fund, managed by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. Contact the Community Foundation at 319-287-9106 or visit http://www.cfneia.org for further information if this is an option you prefer.

DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

Children’s Education & Programming
   Hayes, LaRae & Kohls Cares
   Rewerts, Kay

Education Center Flooring
   Wolner, Linda

Fall Harvest Festival Scarecrow Display
   Jansen, Sara & Denso International America

Train Garden
   Guernsey, Helen
   Hays, Pam
   Wolner, Linda

Tree Identification & Signage
   Kammerdiner, Paul

ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

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Multipurpose Storage Building
   Black Hawk County Gaming Association
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   Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa

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In Honor of Jact Garrett  
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In Honor of Irma Ginkling  
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In Memory of McKinley King  
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In Memory of Patricia & Donald Watson  
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In Memory of Arnold Webster  
James & Janice Fitkin

In Honor of Joshua Wolner  
Linda Wolner
Free Story Time

*Wednesdays, June 6th through August 1st (except July 4th)*
*starting at 10:00 a.m.*

Please join us in the Children’s Garden for a nature-inspired story and activities. As an added bonus, Jake the Snake is fed following story time! Pack a picnic lunch and stay after the program to enjoy the beauty of the gardens. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Will not be held if raining. No registration required.

Midsummer Celebration

*Thursday, July 26th - 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.*

In appreciation of all loyal Arboretum supporters! No registration required.

Wine & Scarecrows Garden Gala

*Saturday, September 15th - 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.*

Held the night before the Fall Harvest Festival, Wine & Scarecrows is a night of good food, wine and music in the gardens. This ticketed event is a fundraiser for the Arboretum and an elegant kickoff for our annual Fall Harvest Festival the next day. For ticket information, please call (319)226-4966 or visit www.cedarvalleyarboretum.org.

14th Annual Fall Harvest Festival

*Sunday, September 16th - 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

The Fall Harvest Festival is the Arboretum’s signature event, a family event for the Cedar Valley community and Northeast Iowa. The main attraction each year is the Scarecrow Contest, with unique scarecrows made in every shape and size by community businesses and individuals. Other events include a Prairie Village, open-air market, games and crafts for children of all ages, picnic food and day-long entertainment. Admission is $5.00 per car.