



"A friend accepts us as we are yet helps us to  
be what we should".

~Author Unknown

February 20, 2009

*The View*

Volume 2, No. 2

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**Thank you from Pam, Pat & Linda to all who write articles, send  
photographs, and share gardening tips to include in our newsletter. Keep  
them coming!**

**Send to The Arboretum office at [office@cedarvalleyarboretum.org](mailto:office@cedarvalleyarboretum.org)**

**All issues of *The View* may be seen at [www.cedarvalleyarboretum.org](http://www.cedarvalleyarboretum.org)**

## Dates of Interest

### **Green Scene of Black Hawk County**

**Saturday, March 14, 2009:** The annual Green Scene Symposium  
8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Waterloo Center for the Arts.

**Saturday, May 9, 2009:** The annual Green Scene Plant Sale  
9 am to noon at Cattle Congress in Waterloo.

For more information visit <http://www.greensceneinc.org/index.html>

### **Arboretum Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, April 9, 2009** 5:30 p.m.

UNI Botanical Center (Greenhouse)

Metered Parking at Gallagher Bluedorn

Performing Arts Center

Virtual Tour:

<http://www.biology.uni.edu/botanicalcenter/Tour0.html>

We're excited to offer a first-hand look at our partner,  
UNI Botanical Center, to our supporters.

Hope to see you there!



### **Fall Harvest Festival**

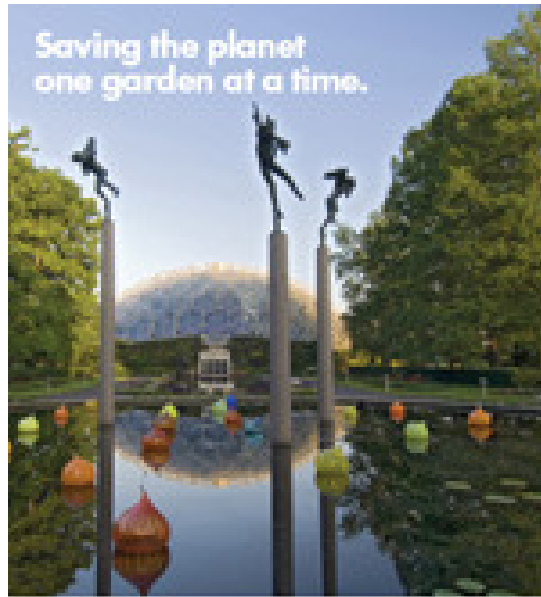
Green Space, Your Place

**Sunday September 20, 2009**

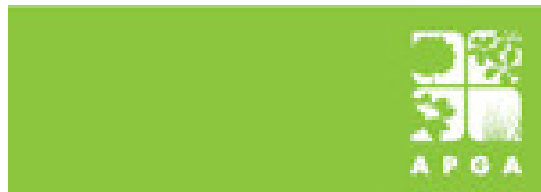
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Free Admission

We are currently planning this year's festival. If you are interested in participating as a sponsor, volunteer, vendor, or demonstrator, please call the office at 319-226-4966.



**The Global Garden**  
**APGA Conference in St. Louis**  
**June 23-27, 2009**



For more information  
call APGA at  
(302) 655.7100.

## The Global Garden APGA Conference in St. Louis June 23-27, 2009

Hosted by Missouri Botanical Garden

**The Garden has gone global!** In 2009, three botanical gardens from three different parts of the world will observe monumental anniversaries: The Royal Botanic Garden, Kew is celebrating their 250th year; Singapore Botanic Gardens is celebrating their 150th anniversary; The Missouri Botanical Garden, our host for the 2009 APGA Annual Conference, is marking their 150<sup>th</sup> year. What can we learn from these gardens, and from the hundreds of other botanical institutions around the globe who have been greening the planet long before "green" became a buzzword of today?

Visit <http://www.publicgardens.org/> for conference and registration details.

- Discount **for all** if register by April 15.
- More discount if you serve on an Arboretum Standing Committee or on the Board of Directors: APGA considers you a "member."

Contact Mollie Luze [director@cedarvalleyarboretum.org](mailto:director@cedarvalleyarboretum.org) for username and password which are needed to register as a "member" online.

*"In these difficult economic times -- more than ever -- we must take advantage of the collective knowledge and experience available at the APGA Conference."*

*Fontaine Huey, Co-chair Development and Marketing Track*

## Arboretum *Feng Shui*

*Feng Shui* is the ancient Chinese art or philosophy of placement, with the purpose to create harmony and balance with the forces of nature and its energies. Although we often hear of feng shui with interior decorating, the fundamentals can also be considered important in garden design. The words "feng shui" mean "wind water", which in ancient Chinese belief were the source of life energy, or "chi". Inviting and tranquil spaces encourage the beneficial "chi" or energy to flow properly into and throughout your garden, resulting in good fortune.

The basics of feng shui are that objects and plants should be placed in a manner harmonious to the forces of nature. There are five elements of water, earth (soil, clay pots, stones), wood (trees, benches), fire (or light), and metal. At least one element should be in each garden view, and none should overpower the other. There are also feminine (yin) energies reflected in items such as still waters or soft plants, and male (yang) energies reflected in items like moving waters or rocks. Both are important, and neither should overpower the other (like in life?). Water features encourage beneficial energy, and goldfish are auspicious. Paths should curve, so that chi energies will move slowly and unobstructed. If paths are straight, plants or shrubs should soften the edges. Clutter is negative, and all debris, dry leaves, or dead plants should be removed. Energy cannot flow through an untidy garden. Simplicity is considered key.





So, does our Arboretum have feng shui? It is generally agreed that the ideal entrance faces south, and is open and inviting. The Arboretum entrance does so, and also incorporates elements of earth (stone) and metal (entry gate). Many of our pathways meander, and we have two water features with bright goldfish.

Rocks or heavy ornaments are to be used to create stability, and contrast with the many soft plants growing. Our rolling topography is considered better for the flow of energy than flat. Colorful plants are considered to attract positive energy, and balance is created by mixing different sizes, shapes and colors, with no one species to overwhelm any other.

Whether you are a believer in feng shui, or a skeptic, these principles of arranging objects and designing spaces to achieve harmony with our environment can be applied and benefit all to create a welcoming garden.



Harmony House is located in Waterloo, off Highway 63 at 2950 West Shaulis Road.

Over the last 15 years, the horticultural therapy programming has helped many Harmony House residents to improve their social, physical, and mental skills.

From 15 to 30 people a day participate in planting and maintaining plants in our 3,000 square foot greenhouse.

## HARMONY HOUSE HEALTH CARE CENTER HORTICULTURAL THERAPY PROGRAM

*Harmony House and The Arboretum have a very close partnership. Kelly Conrad, the director of the Harmony House Greenhouse, has been a very active volunteer since The Arboretum's beginning, and has helped out in many ways in its development. Be sure to look at our educational offerings for Kelly's class on "Container Gardening" to be held in June at The Arboretum. Kelly and Koral Sienknecht wrote the article below about their work.*





We sell four crops every year, beginning with annuals, then perennials, house plants, and finally poinsettias of many different colors. All of the plants that we grow are sold to the general public or used here on our grounds.

Our hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 – 4:30, all year.

To add to the home-like atmosphere of Harmony House, our gardens outside make a beautiful place for everyone to enjoy. During the spring and summer months we use our courtyard and around our grounds for lots of different activities.

Our vegetable garden is always a big hit with our residents and staff. Nothing like that first fresh tomato from your own garden!

There's lots of nature to enjoy at our place. We welcome members of the public, and especially Arboretum supporters, and we invite you to stop by our greenhouse soon and visit our horticultural therapy program!

Hope to see you soon. Kelly Conrad and Koral Sienknecht

## 2009 Price List

**Annual Cell Packs (4 per pack) \$2.00**

**All Tomato Plants (individual) \$2.00**

Big Beef-73 days. Big Boy-78 days. Bush Celebrity-67 days, Red Grape-60 days

**All Pepper Plants (individual) \$2.00**

Parks Whopper – sweet bell. Jalapeno-medium heat. Poblano-mild chili.

**Individual Plants \$3.00**

Calibrachoa, Coleus, Impatiens, Ivy, Vinca Vine, Phlox, Lavandula, Ismelia, Argyanthemum, Cuphea, Lantana, Ipomoea, Petunia, Scaevola, Verbena

**Geraniums (individual) \$4.50**

Americana Cherry Rose, Americana Pick Mega Splash, Americana White, Avenida Mosaic Purple, Rocky Mt. Coral, Rocky Mt. Dark Red, Rocky Mt. Light Pink, Samba Red, Tango Red

**10” Hanging Baskets \$15.00**

**Annuals Available April-May  
Perennials Available May-August  
House Plants Available Fall-Spring  
Poinsettias Available November-December  
319-234-4495 ext. 151  
2950 West Shaulis Road**



5<sup>th</sup> grade participation at Memorial Day Ceremony

## Orange School Partners



2<sup>nd</sup> grade *in class* at The Arboretum

The Arboretum has the pleasure of being a Partner in Education (PIE) with our neighbor down the street, Orange Elementary School. Mollie Luze, director of horticulture, is our representative on the PIE committee, which meets monthly during the school year.

PIE is a Waterloo Schools project that links schools and organizations for the purpose of sharing resources to meet partner needs. The other partners with Orange School are Hawkeye Community College, TOYS R US, Mediacom, South Waterloo Church of the Brethren, and Harmony House.

The students perform services for the businesses and organizations, such as presenting choral concerts at their workplaces or making placemats for Harmony House residents at Thanksgiving. The business partners, in turn, help in ways appropriate to their businesses and also help with efforts such as a mitten drive, adopting families at holiday time, etc.

Currently, The Arboretum is working with Orange School teachers to sponsor a service project experience for 5<sup>th</sup> graders which they participate in yearly at The Arboretum.

The Arboretum is able to provide a hands-on, living laboratory for students and other people interested in learning about many aspects of botany, biology, ecology, etc. It's great to read about plants in a textbook in a classroom, but how much more exciting to be able to go outdoors and see, touch, and smell them!

Orange School personnel are also active volunteers with The Arboretum. Mary Fratzke, a teacher, is the chair of The Arboretum's Education Committee, the group that is in charge of classes for adults and children. Ken Erpelding, the principal of the school, is an active member of The Arboretum's Board of Directors and also of the Education Committee.

The two of them, along with volunteers Susan Pellymouter, Donita Schmitz, Mary TeWinkel, and Carolyn Carpenter, are actively developing lesson plans this month for the children's classes that start in June. Just ask Ken about the several types of grasses that grow in The Arboretum - and what children will learn about Iowa's prairie from his class!



## **Orange Elementary 2008 Community Garden**

