



*One kind word  
can warm three winter months.*

*~Japanese Proverb*



January 18, 2011

*The View*

Volume 4, Issue 1

1. **Gardening Magazine Discussions Begin This Week – Please Join Us**
2. **You're Invited – Arboretum Winter Planning Retreat January 29<sup>th</sup>**
3. **UNI Museum's *Artistry in Nature* Exhibit**
4. **Black Hawk County's Plant Hardiness Zone, by Pat McGivern**
5. **Winter Reading – A Book Review, by Kathy Linda**
6. **Green Talks, by DOH Mollie Aronowitz**
7. **Save the Dates**

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Mollie Aronowitz, Director of Horticulture | Pam Hays, President of the Board of Directors

Pat McGivern & Linda Wolner, Co-Editors of *The View*. Email [office@cedarvalleyarboretum.org](mailto:office@cedarvalleyarboretum.org) to unsubscribe

# Do you miss gardening in the winter?

We can't get our hands in the dirt for several more months, but we can get our gardening "fix" by getting together and talking plants!

**Please join us for a monthly garden chat this winter at the Waterloo Public Library. All are welcome – no registration required!**

Each month, we will be discussing articles from a different gardening magazine (you do not need to have the magazine to attend).

**January 20**      **American Gardener**  
hosted by Kay Rewerts

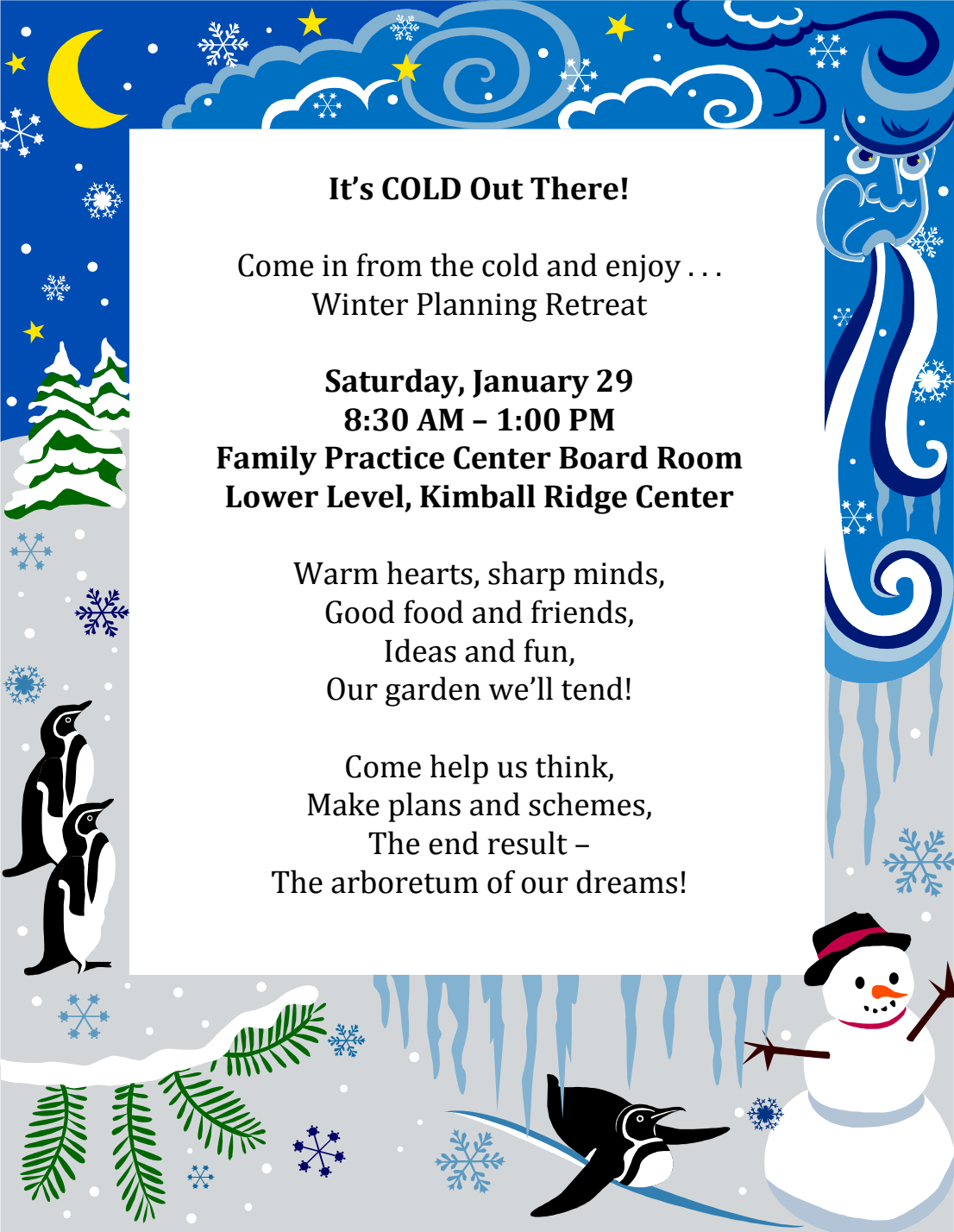
**February 17**      **Better Homes & Gardens**  
hosted by Pam Hays

**March 17**      **Fine Gardening**  
hosted by Nancy Friedman  
and Mollie Aronowitz



**We will be meeting at the Waterloo Public Library at 1:00 p.m. We hope you can join us!**

Please call the office (319)226-4966 with questions or email [office@cedarvalleyarboretum.org](mailto:office@cedarvalleyarboretum.org).



**It's COLD Out There!**

Come in from the cold and enjoy ...  
Winter Planning Retreat

**Saturday, January 29**  
**8:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**Family Practice Center Board Room**  
**Lower Level, Kimball Ridge Center**

Warm hearts, sharp minds,  
Good food and friends,  
Ideas and fun,  
Our garden we'll tend!

Come help us think,  
Make plans and schemes,  
The end result -  
The arboretum of our dreams!

**YOU ARE INVITED**  
**PLEASE JOIN US!**

All Arboretum volunteers, donors, friends,  
and interested folks are welcome. Please  
e-mail [office@arboretum.com](mailto:office@arboretum.com) concerning  
your attendance.



# **Our World In Focus:** *Artistry In Nature* **Photography Contest** Exhibit Dates: Jan. 8-29, 2011

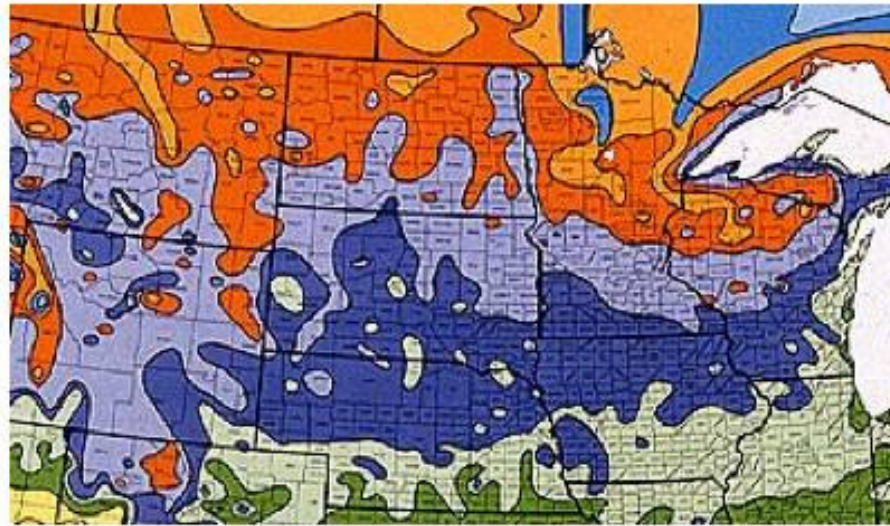
Prairie grasses, cicadas, ducks, flowers, sunsets - see them all in the UNI Museum's outstanding exhibit, *Artistry in Nature*. The exhibit features 50 nature photographs, taken by both local amateurs and professionals. Each photograph is accompanied by a short statement from the one behind the camera.

Winners of the exhibit were Tom Wagner, "Tall Cinquefoil in the Sand Prairie," in the adult division, and Luke Johnson, "Mushroom Falls," in the youth division. There is even a lovely photograph taken at the Arboretum, created by Arboretum volunteer Linda Conley.

The UNI Museum is located at 3219 Hudson Road (near the "I Do" bridal store), with parking immediately in front of it. There is no admission charge, and the hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00 - 4:30; Saturday, 1:00 - 4:00.

# Do you know Black Hawk County's Plant Hardiness Zone?

Winter is the season we gardeners speculate and dream about our gardens for the coming year. In December and January we are deluged with bright and arty garden catalog mailings, that tempt us to try new plant varieties. But do we know what is truly expected to survive in our backyard through the winter a year from now?



Average Annual Minimum Temperature	
Temperature (F)	Zone
Below -50	1
-45 to -50	2a
-40 to -45	2b
-35 to -40	3a
-30 to -35	3b
-25 to -30	4a
-20 to -25	4b
-15 to -20	5a
-10 to -15	5b
-5 to -10	6a
0 to -5	6b
5 to 0	7a
10 to 5	7b
15 to 10	8a
20 to 15	8b
25 to 20	9a
30 to 25	9b
35 to 30	10a
40 to 35	10b
40 +	11

Most gardeners have seen the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Plant Hardiness Zone Map (above) that is used as a standard guide to a plant's cold tolerance. This map divides the United States and southern Canada into 11 zones, defined by a 10 degree Fahrenheit difference in the average annual minimum temperature, then subdivided by a 5 degree difference. The higher the zone number, the warmer the temperature. The original USDA map was published in 1960, sponsored by the United States National Arboretum and the American Horticultural Society (AHS), and was last officially revised in 1990, using temperature data gathered from 1974 to 1986. Using that map, Black Hawk County is clearly in Zone 4b, with average minimum temperatures of -20 to -25 degrees Fahrenheit.

In 2003, the AHS produced a draft revised map, using temperature data gathered from July 1986 to March 2002, which was a period of warmer winters than the last 1990 USDA revised map. That map would place Black Hawk County in the warmer Zone 5, with average minimum temperatures of -20 to -10 degrees Fahrenheit. However, this draft was not accepted by the USDA. As of January 2011, both the USDA and the National Arboretum websites are using the 1990 USDA map as current. The USDA website states that the USDA "is in the process of creating another version of the hardiness map using new mapping technology and an extended set of meteorological data."

In 2006, the National Arbor Day Foundation used weather data from 1991 to 2005 to create their own plant hardiness zone map. The Arbor Day Foundation map also places Black Hawk County in Zone 5, with average winter minimums of -20 to -10 degrees Fahrenheit.

Are you confused yet? It remains the standard practice of most seed dealers and nurseries to label their products by the USDA plant hardiness zones (Black Hawk is then Zone 4b). You should be safe in planting perennials that are labeled for Zone 4, or for Zone 3 which is north of us. However, you can consider whether you wish to test the hardiness zone issue with trying a Zone 5 plant. Also consider the microclimate of where the plant will be placed. Will it be in a sunny location, sheltered from the harshest winds? Will it be in an area that usually has plenty of snow cover, to insulate the roots? Will you plan to mulch or cover the Zone 5 plant which may or may not be a bit tender for our next winter?

Good luck! As noted by author Michael Pollen in Second Nature (see book review in this View): "We gardeners have always had trouble heeding Henry Ward Beecher's sound nineteenth-century advice, that we not be 'made wild by pompous catalogs from florists and seedsmen.' "



# WINTER READING

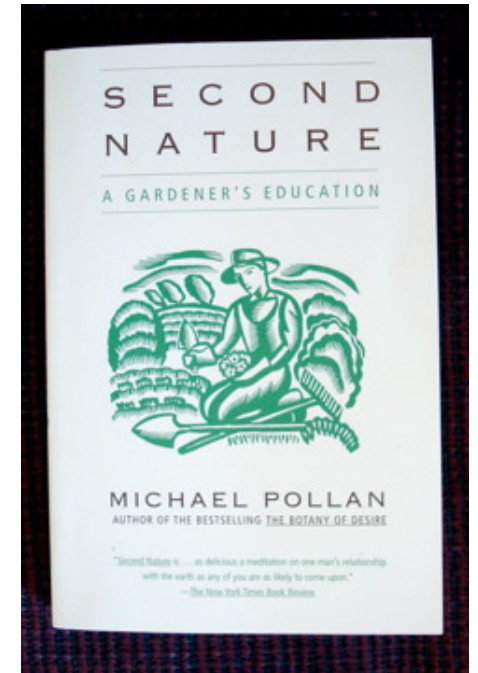
Book Review by Kathy Linda

## **SECOND NATURE**

A Gardener's Education

By Michael Pollan

(Grove Press, 1991)



Michael Pollan may be familiar to many gardeners through the PBS documentary based on his book, *The Botany of Desire* (2001). The *Botany of Desire* traces the huge impact four plants (apples, tulips, potatoes, and marijuana) have had on human beings and, subsequently, how humans have affected the growth and development of these same plants. His previous book, though, *Second Nature*, is a personal book, and in it Pollan recreates his struggle to create a garden at his home which reflects his idea of what a garden should be and where he feels comfortable and happy. As Pollan constructs his own garden, he reflects on his father's and grandfather's attitudes and gardening practices, and through the life of the book and after many trials he comes into his own as a gardener—constructing and reconstructing landscapes, digging and replanting gardens and changing plants, and making peace (or not) with garden pests of all types. In addition to being a memoir, this book is also a history (Pollan is a faculty member of the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley) of the dichotomy of the development of

gardening in the United States where we have been influenced by both European gardeners with their walled and lush border gardens as well as Thoreau and Emerson who have made deep impressions on us with their ideals of the beauty of untouched natural settings. Pollan is particularly gifted in sifting through and clearly defining all these converging and differing ideas. and to top it all off, he is very funny. Who couldn't be entertained by chapters titled "Nature Abhors a Garden" and "Made Wild by Pompous Catalogs"?

This book is divided into four sections: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter, yet the chapters aren't how-to's on gardening throughout the seasons; rather Pollan writes about his growth and maturity as a gardener. He bravely admits his mistakes and eagerly tackles new gardening plans with a fervor that all gardeners appreciate, and as he develops his new insights, we are instructed in issues such as the American obsession with lawns, the class conflict of plants, the sexuality of roses, which Pollan tells us that the Victorians could never understand, and some of the ways in which gardening and ecological issues interact. This book is a blend of history, philosophy and practice, one which is instructive to read, and a great one to discuss with a group of gardening friends. The American Horticultural Society has chosen this book as one of the seventy five best books ever written about gardening.





Terms like “eco-friendly” and “sustainability” are popular buzzwords in today’s media. In these times of decreasing resources and increasing needs, many have realized our connectedness to Mother Nature and the vital importance of turning from users to stewards.

Where do you fit into the green movement? To learn more about current green trends, invite the Arboretum’s Director of Horticulture, Mollie Aronowitz, to present at your next organization or business meeting.

Choose from one of the following presentation topics:

- ⌘ Tree Stewardship: Selection, Planting and Management for the General Homeowner
- ⌘ Living Green: Current Trends in Sustainability and Organic Practices
- ⌘ Garden Design: the Basics
- ⌘ Green Ergonomics: Garden Design and Tools with Everyone in Mind

To schedule a presentation, please contact Mollie Aronowitz at (319)226-4966 or email [director@cedarvalleyarboretum.org](mailto:director@cedarvalleyarboretum.org).

# Mark Your Calendars Today!

Thursday, January 20, 1:00. *American Gardener Magazine Discussion.* Waterloo Public Library

Saturday, January 29, 8:30 - 1:00. *Winter Planning Retreat.* Northeast Iowa Family Practice Center  
Lower Level - 2055 Kimball Avenue, Waterloo. All arboretum volunteers, donors, and supporters are invited.

Thursday, February 17, 1:00. *Better Homes & Gardens Magazine Discussion.* Waterloo Public Library

Saturday, March 12, 8:00-2:30. *Annual Green Scene Symposium.* Waterloo Center for the Arts  
\$20 cost which includes lunch. Register by check to: Green Scene Symposium, Box 2004, Waterloo, IA 50704. [www.greensceneinc.org](http://www.greensceneinc.org) will also be updated soon with more information.

Thursday, March 17, 1:00. *Fine Gardening Magazine Discussion.* Waterloo Public Library

Saturday, May 7, 9:00-noon. *Annual Green Scene Plant Sale.* Cattle Congress, Waterloo.  
[www.greensceneinc.org](http://www.greensceneinc.org) will be updated soon with more information.



## **An Evening of Wine & Scarecrows**

### **Dinner in the Gardens**

Saturday, September 17, 2011

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

## **Fall Harvest Festival & Scarecrow Contest**

Sunday September 18, 2011

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

We have begun planning this year's events! If you are interested in participating as a sponsor, volunteer, vendor, or demonstrator, please call the office at 319-226-4966, or email [office@cedarvalleyarboretum.org](mailto:office@cedarvalleyarboretum.org).

