

GROUND COVER

Dubuque Arboretum



Spring Edition
March 2022

Check out our website: www.dubuquearboretum.net

SPROUTS of SPRING!

Planting of this season's annual flowers began on February 1 and will continue once a week until the end of March. The process requires patience, manual dexterity, and sharp eyes, because most flower seeds are minuscule and must be scattered evenly so that the seedlings can be easily separated later. Also, each type of flower requires a particular temperature range and amount of light (or no light) in order to germinate successfully.

After planting, the containers are placed under grow lights in the McAleece "nursery" where temperature and soil moisture are checked daily. Once the seedlings have produced a few true leaves, Green Team volunteers transplant them into individual containers and move them into the McAleece greenhouse. This year, about two-thirds of our annual flowers will be grown from seed, with the remainder produced from purchased plugs, cuttings, and a few store-bought plants.

Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens is a non-profit organization supported by tax-exempt gifts and contributions. All gardens are maintained by volunteers. Many trees, shrubs, plants and seeds are gifted from arboreturns and botanical gardens, nurseries, growers and friends from all over the world.

Mission Statement:
To establish, preserve and maintain an arboretum and botanical garden to be a source of information, education, culture and beauty for all to know.

No admission fee.
Guided tours are available on request with advance notice. Carts tours are also available for visitors with limited walking ability. Call the Visitor Center, 563.556.2100 for reservations.

Phone: 563.556.2100
dabg@dubuquearboretum.net

Garden Hours
Daily, 7 a.m. to sunset

Summer Office Hours:
21 March - 29 October
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F



Green Team volunteers Barb Bishop (left) and Charlotte Schope plant seeds for Fairy Queen salvia to be displayed in several of our annual flowerbeds this summer. In the foreground is a tray of week-old coleus sprouts. Both Charlotte and Barb have been active DABG volunteers since 1991—that's 30 years each—and they still care for the perennial garden they adopted during their first season. In recent years, they have been teaming up to plant our annual flowers.





BEYOND THE GARDEN GATE

From The Director...



Throughout the winter, dedicated volunteers and staff remain busy at the DABG. A lot of work goes into planning and preparing for the events that will take place in the coming year. Many of our volunteers have been focusing their skills on indoor projects to remain busy despite these colder months. A major project the DABG will be focusing on is a website redesign. One exciting change with the website is that it will allow individuals to make reservations for their weddings or events online. Additionally, there will be a portal for individuals to give their feedback, comments, and suggestions. Another big change we look forward to is becoming more environmentally sustainable in reducing our paper usage. In the future, we plan to give members the option to receive their *Ground Cover* issues through email or renew their memberships online. We will continue to provide the paper option; however, we are very excited about this “green” alternative and look forward to sharing more with you in an upcoming *Ground Cover*. Please stop out and enjoy the remaining winter beauty at the DABG.

Submitted by Jenna Hirt, DABG Director

From The Chairman...



Welcome to the rebirth of spring! We’ve had a beautiful snow cover this winter, but we are all so excited about seeing the new green spring grass and buds on the trees. The magnolias will be one of the first trees to display their beautiful fragrant flowers. Our magnolia collection is just straight ahead inside the entry gate. Magnolias are also interspaced throughout all the gardens. Our dear volunteer, Katherine Carothers, passed away during the past year. She had encouraged Jack Frick to plant daffodils in the valley under the power lines just outside the main gate. They have become such a beautiful display each spring. Forsythia and redbuds will be close behind. But our favorite spring event will be the return of our guests. We can’t wait to meet and chat with you on the lawns and in the gardens.

And it begins...

Submitted by Steve Ulstad, DABG Board Chairman

Hy-Vee Reusable Bags

Hy-Vee has selected us for their Reusable Bags program for the month of March at both the Dodge Street and Northwest Arterial Hy-Vee stores. We receive \$1 when you purchase the red reusable bag for \$2.50. Thank you for supporting us this way!



From The Volunteer Coordinator...

I can’t wait for spring and to see all our volunteers again! For the upcoming 2022 season, the DABG needs volunteers in the following areas:



- ~ **Gift Shop:** 4-hour shift once a week or twice a month; involves greeting visitors and running the cash register
- ~ **Office:** 4-hour shift once a week (9-1 or 1-5); involves answering the phone, processing mail, booking events
- ~ **Prairie:** Set your own hours; involves maintaining the paths and plants (directed by a team leader) in the prairie

- ~ **Japanese Garden:** Set your own hours; involves maintaining an assigned plot in the Japanese Garden area (a few hours a month)
- ~ **Garden of Eat’n:** Set your own hours; involves maintaining an assigned area in the edible community garden
- ~ **Conifers:** Set your own hours; involves maintaining an assigned area of conifers (wood chipping, weeding, pruning as directed/assisted)
- ~ **Plumber:** Skilled plumber who can be contacted as needed for small projects

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact me at 563-556-2100 or volunteer@dubuquearboretum.net.

Submitted by Barb Block



- June 5..... Johnny Rogers - Buddy Holly Tribute
- June 12..... Fortunate Sons - Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute
- June 19..... Hunter Fuerste & the American Vintage Orchestra
- June 26..... The Dubuque Symphony Orchestra
- July 3 Neil Berg’s Greatest Piano Songs from the 60s & 70s
- July 10 Secrets – 60s & 70s & 80s Variety of Music
- July 17 David Weld & the Imperial Flames – Blues, Boogie, R&B and Soul
- July 24 Go Your Own Way – The Music of Fleetwood Mac
- July 31 The Kids From Wisconsin
- August 7.... Walking Molly – Classic Rock & Roll
- August 14.. Tapestry – 70s & 80s Hits
- August 21.. Ten of Soul – Soul, Funk & Jazz
- August 28 . Endless Summer – 50s & 60s Rock & Roll

Subject to change. For more information, visit our website at www.dubuquearboretum.net





Thymely Information

Submitted by Fran Hedeman,
Herb Society of Dubuque

Violas

As I put finger to keyboard, the dreary days of February and March are upon us. We are surrounded by piles of snow, sharp winds whip around every

corner, and a longing for spring blooms in every gardener's heart. Although we still have a couple of months to wait, in early spring one of the members of the Violaceae family, the 2022 Herb of the Year, will begin to appear in our lawns, gardens, and woodlands. This particular family member is *viola odorata* also known as sweet violet, blue violet, and wild violet. The International Herb Society is including all members of the Violaceae family—violas, pansies, violets, and Johnny-Jump-Ups (heartsease) in the Herb of the Year designation, and boy is it a big family. Some authors have gone so far as to suggest that our original shrinking violet (*viola odorata*) was quite promiscuous, as there are over 400 species worldwide.

When I mention that some herb has been designated as the Herb of the Year, people often chuckle and express surprise that there is such a label. Others ask how the Herb of the Year is selected. To qualify, an herb must be outstanding in two of the three major categories: medicinal, culinary, or decorative. Once selected, folks interested in herbs are urged to explore the history, cultivation, and uses of the herb. Herbs in the Violaceae family score in all 3 categories plus they also get bonus points for being aromatic.

Although we most often think of violets, violas, and pansies as beautiful additions to the flower garden, their ancestors were first used for medicine and food. Around 2,000 years ago, the Greeks were using wild violets to treat inflammations of the stomach and eyes. By the 16th century violet leaves, roots, and flowers were being used to treat inflamed lungs, livers, kidneys, and skin. The indigenous peoples of the Americas used wild violets to treat headaches and colds. We assume the treatments worked because violets contain an aspirin-like substance. Today naturopaths use violet/viola tinctures to treat eczema, psoriasis, acne, and diaper rash. I have not personally used violets medicinally but apparently I have a pharmacy growing in my backyard! Visit HerbFest 2022 (June 26th) to learn more about violet tinctures and skin creams.

After a long winter without fresh greens, imagine the delight of our forebearers when the first herbs sprang forth from the ground. Those early violets and other herbs provided a refreshing and healthful addition to a winter-weary diet. The violets added a sweet taste and an abundance of vitamin A and C to spring meals. Today we most often find violets used to garnish soups, salads, omelets, fruit and cheese plates, and desserts, but they are also used to make jams, jellies, liqueurs, and puddings. Violet water, made by steeping flowers and leaves until the water is fragrant, is used as a flavoring in tea breads, cupcakes, puddings, ices, and fruit compotes. Astound your children and grandchildren by allowing them to decorate cupcakes with candied violets. You can candy your own violets (free of any garden spray, of course!) using meringue powder or purchase them. Assuming we have a good "crop" of violets, HerbFest 2022 is sure to feature some candied violets and jars of violet jelly.

Apparently violets are good for you inside and out. Author Janice Cox, who has written six books about DIY beauty products, extolled the virtues of the violet in a recent article, "Natural Beauty with

Violas," in *The Herb Quarterly* magazine. According to Cox, violets can be used to remove makeup and excess oil from the skin because they are slightly astringent. Their vitamin A and C content aids in collagen and elastin formation. You can make your own violet-infused oil, water, cleansing cream, hair rinse, and bath soak. Look for samples at HerbFest 2022.

"I think the King is but a man as I am; the violet smells to him as it doth to me."

-- William Shakespeare

According to seed company websites, pansies are valuable as decorative plants because they can endure cold weather and can even bloom through a light freeze. Therefore they are a great choice for spring and fall container plants. In northern areas this means about six weeks of early container color. Pansies, violas, and Johnny Jump-Ups can also be planted in the garden. If you choose a semi-shaded spot, they will bloom a little longer. Planted in full sun, they will succumb to the heat and humidity of summer. Try cutting your plants back when they begin to wither and they may come back to bloom in the fall. Potted plants that enjoy full sun in early spring can be moved to a shady location when full summer hits to extend their bloom time. While violets are usually blue, white, or dark pink, violas and pansies come in dozens of colors and can be planted in masses for a show-stopping display of color.

Here is a bit of trivia for you. As you know, violets and pansies are in the same family. All pansies are violets, but not all violets are pansies. You can tell the difference by looking at their flowers. The plants we see most often in garden centers are pansy or viola hybrids. Most of the pansies have large flowers with a blotch of contrasting color. Pansies have four overlapping petals pointing up and one pointing down. Violets, on the other hand, have two petals that point up and three that point down. So look at petal formation and blotches if you want to differentiate between the two.

Another bit of trivia involves Johnny Jump-Ups (wild pansy) and pansies. Viola Tricolor, AKA Johnny Jump-Up and heartsease, is a common European wildflower. This plant is the ancestor of the modern-day pansy. Johnny Jump-Ups are dark purple, light purple and yellow, and instead of the blotch we associate with pansies they have narrow dark stripes called nectar guides. Insects land on these guides and follow them to the nectar in the flowers. In the early 1800s, gardeners in England began crossing various *Viola* species. As they selected for color, color combinations, and larger, flowers the nectar lines disappeared and the pansy was born. This pansy had a "face" or a large block of color. Gardeners kept crossing plants and eventually the clear pansy with no face came into being. When you visit your garden center this spring, check out all the varieties available but know that the humble Johnny Jump-Up is the forbearer of all these beautiful flowers.

Please join us on June 26 (weather permitting) for an all-outdoor HerbFest. Garden tours, tasty tidbits, herbal crafts, and more will be featured.

References

Rodale's *Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs*
"The Herb Quarterly"
Multiple Websites

Thank you for giving generously...

The following donations were received
November 2021 – January 2021

Supporting Memberships

Ellen Asmussen
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In Memory of:
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Rose Mary Woodhouse, given by
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Woodrum

Honoraria

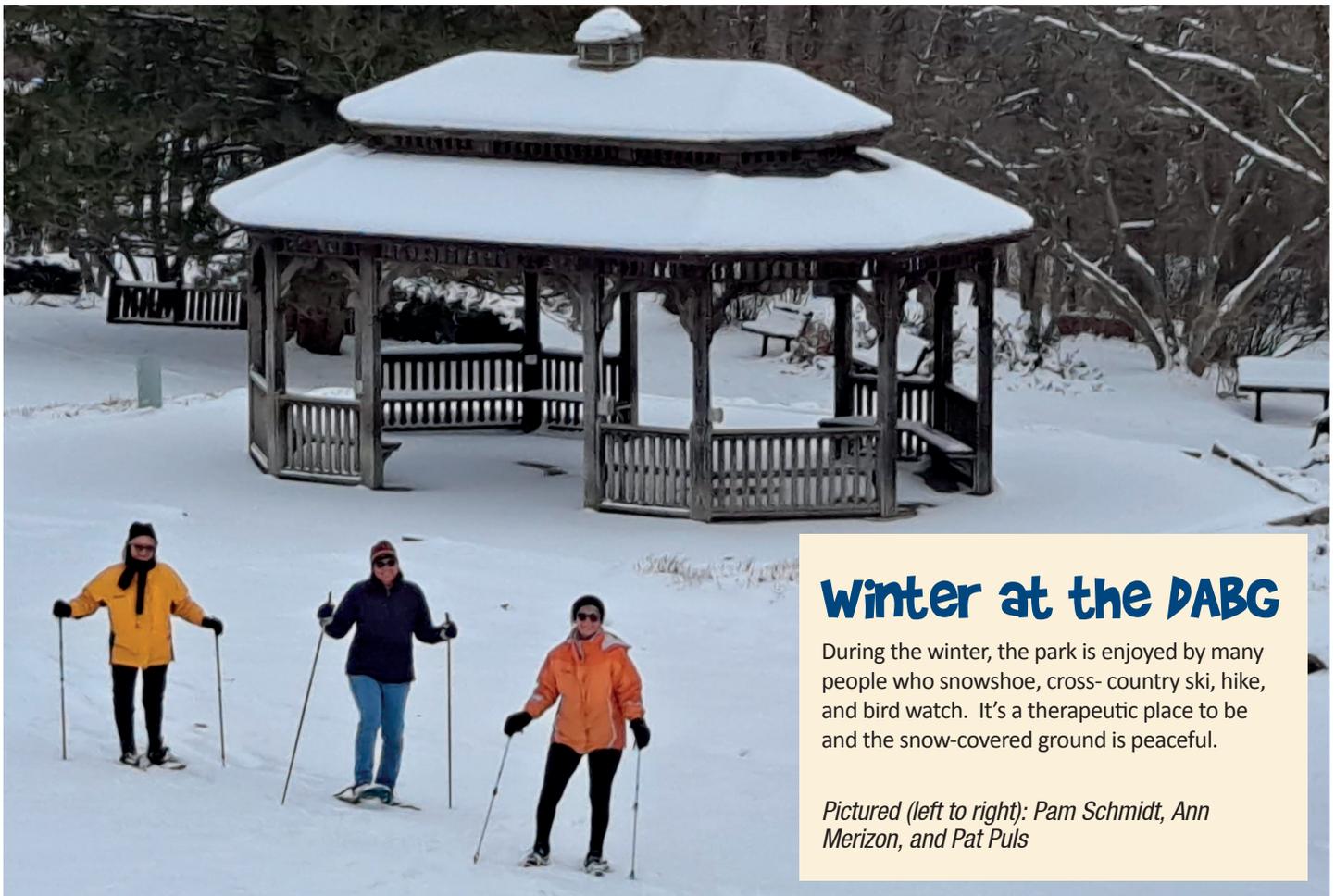
In Honor of: Roger & Ruth
Grundmeier, given by Ed &
Shirley Crawford

Benches

In Memory of:
Red & Velma Martens and Bill
Martens, steel bench under
metal gazebo in concert area,
given by Joe & Sue Mettille

Bricks and Pavers

In Honor and Memory of:
Del & Lois Link, given by Todd J.
Link
Sylvia Meyers, given by Susan
Jordan
Annetta Oeth, given by Thelma &
Ray Breitsprecker



Winter at the DABG

During the winter, the park is enjoyed by many people who snowshoe, cross-country ski, hike, and bird watch. It's a therapeutic place to be and the snow-covered ground is peaceful.

Pictured (left to right): Pam Schmidt, Ann Merizon, and Pat Puls



Pictured is John Cook, S&R Dubuque Yard General Manager and Barb Block, DABG Volunteer Coordinator



**SPAHN & ROSE
LUMBER COMPANY**

Thank you to Spahn & Rose for the \$1,000 donation that DABG received at the Spahn & Rose Community Day: Building Our Communities Through Giving. Their continued giving helps to ensure the future of the gardens!



Gift Shop Opening Day

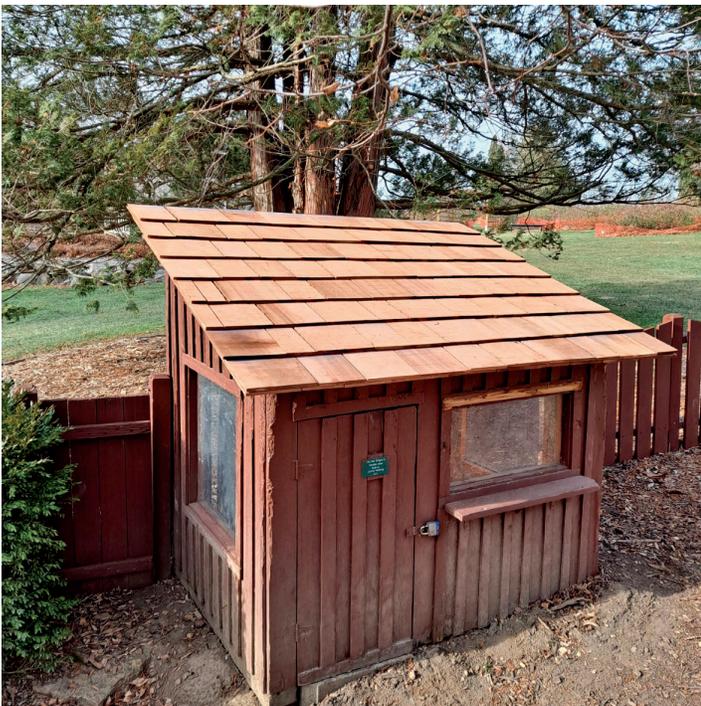
It's time to blossom and bloom! The DABG Gift Shop opens on April 30. The Gift Shop and restrooms have been updated with fresh paint and restorations. Thank you to Tom Drake for volunteering!

The Display Team, including Jan Feltes (Gift Shop Buyer), Terry Mozena, Patti Ruden, Renee Hess and Donna Slade, are busy picking, choosing, buying and displaying new products for the shop throughout the season. When the merchandise arrives, Barb Horsfall and Donna Beadle unpack each piece and enter all the merchandise into the computer. Thank you, Barb and Donna, for your time.

Look for a variety of new styles in the jewelry section, scented soaps, a new garden area with gardening books, hats, visors, flowerpots and many one-of-a-kind garden picks. Check out the indoor and outdoor patio décor pillows and throws, wall art, wind chimes, spinners and rain gauges. A must see!!

Thank you for supporting the Gift Shop and enjoy the beautiful gardens this season.

Gift Shop hours are: Monday –Saturday, 9am to 5pm; Sunday, 10am to 5pm, with extended hours for the concerts until 8pm.



Newly Shingled Shed

The roof of Mr. McGregor's garden shed received a fresh layer of cedar shake shingles in December, courtesy of the Brown Team. The popular Peter Rabbit Garden was established in 2001, inspired by Beatrix Potter's classic tale about a naughty bunny named Peter. In addition to the shed, which was originally constructed by Lenny Helbing, the garden features ceramic figures of Mother Rabbit and her children as well as a scarecrow fashioned from the blue coat Peter lost while escaping from Mr. McGregor. A copy of the storybook is provided on an easel in the garden, where it is common to see a mom, grandma, or older sibling reading to younger children on a summer day. Volunteer Pat Puls has been maintaining the Peter Rabbit Garden since 2015.

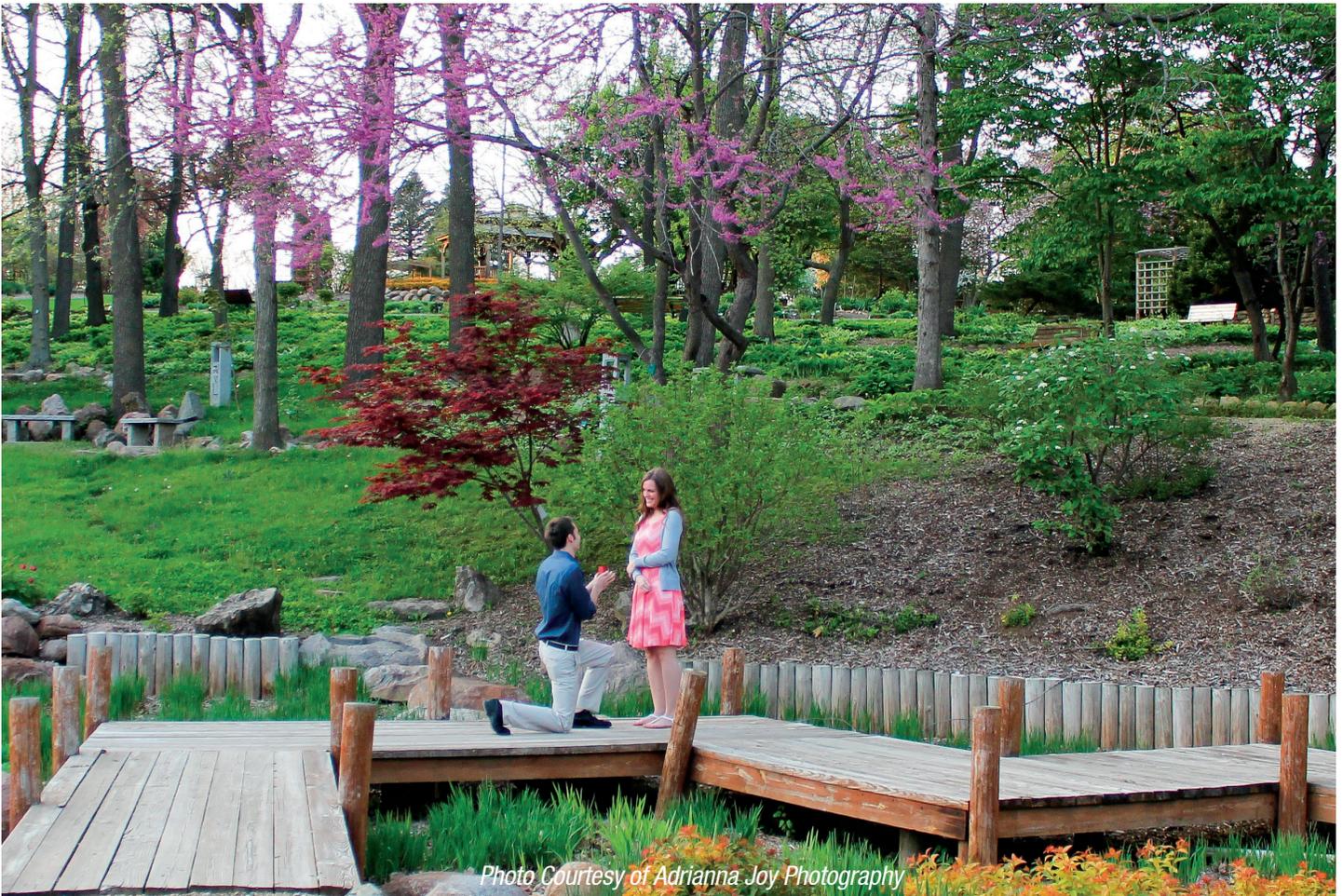


Photo Courtesy of Adrianna Joy Photography



Photo Courtesy of Marc & Mindy Photography

Weddings at the DABG

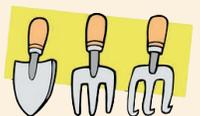
Love is in the air! We've been receiving lots of calls in the past few weeks inquiring about weddings. The Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens is a beautiful place for weddings and even proposals! Last year the DABG hosted 37 weddings. Weddings typically take place in the covered Packard Pavilion or the Lagen-Buelow Pavilion by the roses. Smaller weddings can be held in the English Garden, Japanese Garden, and other intimate places. Visit the DABG website for more details at www.dubuquearboretum.net. To book a wedding, call the office at 563-556-2100.

DABG SPRING COMMUNITY CLEANUPS

Saturday, April 16, 9-noon and
Saturday, April 23, 9-noon, free lunch following

Bring gloves and leaf rakes if you can! Call or email to let us know you are coming!

563-556-2100 or volunteer@dubuquearboretum.net



Care of DABG Trees

Caring for DABG's trees involves pruning at the proper time (usually late winter). The key to good fruit is to provide conditions favorable for flower bud formation, survival and pollination.



Dan Block, Pat Puls, and Ann Merizon pruned fruit trees in the Garden of Eat'n



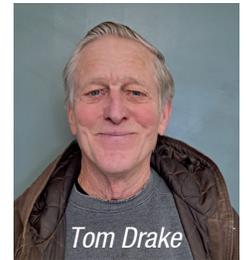
When we heard that Mike Irvin would be moving out of town this spring, a small panic erupted. He had led the DABG's Friday mowing team! Who would now head up the mowing team?

It's a challenge to keep all the mowers and equipment maintained plus coordinate a crew of men for the mowing schedule. Mike has been volunteering about 12 years. He

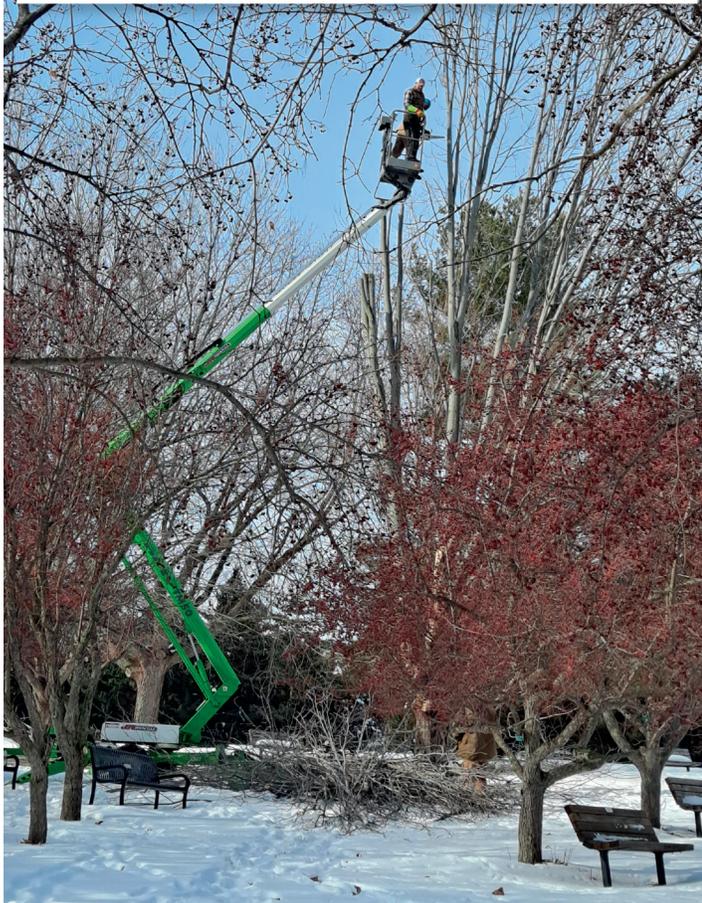
retired from John Deere 20 years ago, and Paul Welbes encouraged him to join the mowing team, so he started as a trimmer and push mower and eventually became team leader.

He said, "People are great here at the Arboretum. They come back year after year. I tell the mowing team 'health and family first' so if you can't come for your mowing shift, it's ok, we'll fill in for you. Some of the mowers bring their sons and grandsons to occasionally help with trimming and mowing."

Soon after Mike informed us that he would be moving, the name of Tom Drake came to mind. Retired now, he had worked seven years for Sadler's in Davenport and 16 years for Waste Management in Cedar Rapids, commuting the whole time. Tom started volunteering by helping the Brown Team, mowing, and team cleanups. With his mechanical background and good work ethic, it's no wonder that he didn't hesitate when asked if he would take over the mowing team leader spot. When asked why he chose the DABG to volunteer, he said, "I wanted to get out of the house and do something productive for somebody. I wanted something outside. I've always had a big garden and did my own landscaping. Here, if I want ideas or have questions, there are friendly people to ask."



So, Mike, a big THANK YOU for your years of service and we wish you and your wife, Nancy, well. Tom, thanks for stepping up and we'll see you out mowing this summer!



Dead or diseased trees were removed this winter. Pictured in bottom photo is Woodsmen Tree Removal taking down a tree near the Packard Pavilion.

Walmart 
Save money. Live better.

Giving Grant

A DABG goal is to become a more environmentally sustainable organization. To develop a more efficient watering system, drip irrigation is an upcoming project. To fund part of this project, a \$500 grant was provided by the Walmart Community Grant Program. Thank you, Walmart Giving, for your support!



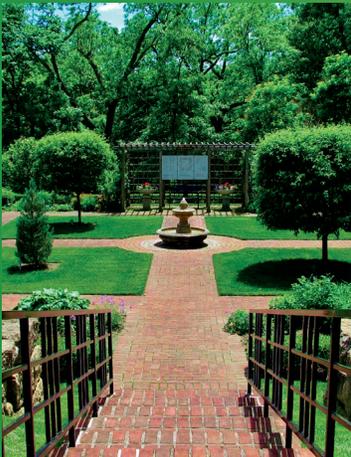
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VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Barb Block
EDITOR: Bev Kolz

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Our membership fees support many of the activities at the Arboretum. Members receive the Ground Cover newsletter as well as 10% discount on all purchases in the Gift Shop.

- \$25.00 Individual
- \$50.00 Family
- \$100.00 Supporting
- \$250.00 Corporate

Renew your membership. Make checks payable to **Dubuque Arboretum Association, Inc.**
Donations and membership fees are tax deductible.

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