



TREE-BUNE

Spring
2007

31st Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 12, 2007 9:00 am - Noon
Cattle Congress, Estel Hall, Waterloo, Iowa

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy Spring, Everyone!

Hope you're all having a productive Spring. Green Scene kicked off its spring with our Annual Symposium and Garden Market at the Center for the Arts in Waterloo. It was another successful event—it really gets you in the mood for the garden. I was sure ready for the warmer weather. It's so nice to see all those springtime things: green grass, tulips, daffodils, birds, and worms for the birds...okay, maybe even an occasional bug. Isn't it nice to see people out putzing around their yards? Heck, just sitting in a lawn chair in the sun is nice.

So now it's time to get those garden tools sharpened and ready for the garden season, as well as plan all your garden needs for this year. How about planting a tree somewhere? The Street Trees and County Beautification committees have been busy allocating trees from our proceeds earned at our Plant Sale last year.

Your springtime plans should also include the Green Scene Plant Sale, Friday evening, May 11 (members only), and Saturday, May 12. The 2007 Perennial Plant of the Year is one of my favorites, "Nepeta-Walker's Low". The sale this year is going to have a lot of new plants and many of my favorites.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone again at this year's sale. Don't forget to renew your membership soon if you haven't already done so (remember your membership ended after the plant sale last year). Bring a friend or a family member to the sale with you. Don't forget to stop down to Estel Hall Monday through Thursday to volunteer with us. We all have a great time, and the more the merrier.

Be sure to plant something as soon as the ground is workable. Heck, that's what spring is all about, isn't it gardeners?

Linda Schulte, President

Types of plants we'll have at our 31st Annual Plant Sale...

- Native Plants and Grasses
- Perennials
- Wildflowers
- Herbs
- Hosta
- Fairy Garden
- Butterfly Garden
- Dwarf Conifers and Alpines
- Collectors' Corner
- Companion Plants
- Ground Covers
- Roots and Tubers
- Vines
- Trees and Shrubs
- Houseplants
- Daylilies

thanks to our sponsors

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for our posters**



Blue-Eyed Grass

Blue-eyed grass blooms in moist, open, grassy areas from March to May. The generally purple, six-pointed flowers with yellow centers are on the sides and at the end of the flower stalk. It can grow anywhere from four inches to twenty inches tall. The leaves, shorter than the flower stalk, are flat, narrow and grass-like.

The flower color varies from purple to a very pale blue. The flowers will open in the morning and close in the afternoon. Individual flowers have a short life, but during the blooming season they are replaced daily with new flowers.

Blue-eyed grass is in the Iris family, not in the Grass family. Even though it is in the Iris family, it does not have the usual iris shape of three sepals pointing out or down and three petals pointing up.

The scientific name is *Sisyrinchium bellum*. In Greek, *sisy* means pig and *rinchium* means snout. It was said that pigs grubbed out the tubers of this plant.



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada. Vol. 1: 544.



Adding Lemon-scented Herbs to Your Garden

One of the most popular and useful herbs to add to your herb garden are the lemon-scented herbs. They are easy to find and fun to grow.

Lemon Balm is a popular choice for adding scent to your garden. It is in the mint family and spreads rapidly. It is an easy-to-grow perennial for partly shady areas but also grows in full sun. It can be invasive as it reseeds itself but can be controlled by simply cutting it back periodically throughout the summer before it goes to seed. The leaves are popular for making lemon-flavored tea and adding to water for a lemon flavor.

Lemon Thyme is a culinary herb that compliments fish and chicken dishes. This perennial herb spreads out from its center with small leaves that are extremely fragrant. It does need good drainage so add some compost to the soil before you plant and do not over-water. The more you cut, the more it grows. Sprinkle over grilled fish, chicken, or corn on the cob.

Lemon Verbena is probably the best lemon herb to use in cooking, especially desserts. Growing in popularity, this herb has an upright growth habit and the stems are woody. It can grow to be the size of a small shrub but will not overwinter in our zone 4. Some people like to plant it in a pot to overwinter indoors. Add chopped leaves to fruit salads, muffin batter or soft cheese.

Other lemon herbs to experiment with are lemon basil, lemon grass, lemon catnip, and lemon-scented geraniums. Lemon-scented herbs can make an interesting collection for your garden and placed near a pathway can be a welcoming scent when visitors brush against them.

Winter Storm Damage

Spring continues to emerge around us, but reminders of February's ice storms still remain...at least in my yard where I haven't finished picking up all the twigs and branches.

Iowa is blessed with many types of inclement weather, all of which pose serious threats to our trees. Trees that sustain major injuries, like severe splitting in the trunk, probably cannot be saved. For trees with no major structural damage, the most obvious method of repair is pruning. Make sure that the correct pruning techniques are employed. Improper pruning can weaken the tree's structure and serve as the entry point for decay, fungi, insects, and other organisms, all of which can destroy a tree that might otherwise have been saved.

No tree can be made completely immune to nature, but there are ways to help keep a tree strong. Pruning a tree properly as it grows is one of the best ways to help it avoid serious damage once mature. When planting new trees, consider sturdiness in addition to aesthetic appeal. Sturdy selections for Iowa include varieties of maple (black, Norway, red, and sugar), oak (red, white, swamp white, and bur) and linden (American and littleleaf). Species susceptible to weather-related injury include silver maples, Siberian elms, willows, green ash, and hackberry.



2007 PLANT SALE

This is our **31st annual Green Scene Plant Sale!** We want to **thank** all of you who have made our previous **30** sales so very successful!

The 2007 Perennial Plant of the Year is "Nepeta-Walker's Low". Those who favor this beauty know why it was chosen as perennial plant of the year! (Those who are unfamiliar with it can read more below.)

Some of the new plant varieties that are being offered at this year's Green Scene Plant Sale include: *Arabis* Snowfix; *Asclepias* Hellow Yellow; *Campanula* Pearl Lights and Champion Pink; *Dianthus* Melody Rose; *Dianthus* Star Series: Eastern Star, Fire Star, Neon Star, Pixie Star, Shooting Star, and Spangled Star; *Nepeta* Candy Cat; *Phlox* Nickey Purple; *Pulmonaria* Pink-Dora Biefeld; and *Sisyrinchium Angustifolium* Blue Eyed Grass.

New areas added to this year's sale are **Mystery Plants** and **Fairy Gardens!** Hopefully these will intrigue you, along with our **Butterfly Gardens** section and our **Trough-Dwarf Conifers** section, perennials, houseplants, vines, day lilies, wildflowers, tubers, groundcover plants, herbs and grasses, companion plants, and hostas. We have unfortunately **discontinued** annuals and water/bog plants.

There are lots of ways to help with our sale. We will begin potting perennials in mid-April, and then starting Monday, May 7, the real fun begins! Our work hours are from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. each day in Estel Hall on the Cattle Congress grounds until the day of the sale, which is Saturday, May 12, from 9 a.m. to noon.

We appreciate **YOU**, our volunteers, for **ALL** that you do for us! I promise you'll have a great time, learn lots and lots about plants, and work with a wonderful group of people!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call!

Ruth Elliott, *Plant Sale Chair* (236-3646)

Karen Acton, *Plant Sale Co-Chair* (984-5252)

Say what?

Not many people speak Latin anymore, but the language is alive and well in the world of gardening. While horticultural nomenclature certainly makes sense in identifying plants, most of use are at a loss when it comes to pronouncing all those plant names.

Below are the names of some common plants and the proper pronunciation of each genus. Ask for them by name!

Aegopodium (ee-go-POE-dee-um): Bishop's Weed, Goutweed

Agastache (ag-ah-STAK-ee): Hyssop

Aquilegia (ak-will-EE-jah): Columbine

Buddleia (BUD-lee-ah): Butterfly bush

Campanula (kam-PAN-yew-lah): Bellflower

Cotoneaster (kah-TONE-ee-ass-ter): (not as easy as it looks!)

Echinops (EH-kih-nops): Globe thistle

Gaillardia (gay-LARD-ee-ah): Blanket flower

Helleborus (hel-LEB-or-us): Lenten and Christmas roses

Heuchera (HEW-ker-ah): Coral bells

Lysimachia (lye-sih-MAK-ee-ah): Creeping Jenny, Loosestrife

Oenothera (ee-NOTH-er-ah): Evening primrose

Physostegia (fy-so-STEE-jhah): Obedient plant

Schizachyrium (skiz-ah-KEER-ee-um): blue-stemmed grasses

Stachys (STAK-iss): Lamb's ears

Trachelospermum (tray-kel-oh-SPERM-um): Star jasmine

Weigela (wy-JEE-lah) or (wy-GEE-lah)

2007 PERENNIAL OF THE YEAR:

"Walker's Low" catmint

Botanical name: *Nepeta faassenii*

- Blue-violet flowers with grey-green foliage.
- Grows 30-36" tall and wide. The name refers to the English garden where it was first propagated, not its size.
- Hardy in zones 3-8.
- Grows best in well-drained soil with neutral pH and in full sun, though it can tolerate shade in hot climates.
- Will bloom throughout the season if properly pruned, making it an excellent companion plant for early and late bloomers.
- Good for attracting bees and butterflies, though it is not as attractive to cats as the name suggests.
- And it's deer- and rabbit-resistant!



HOSTA

Hosta in All Sizes and Colors!

That was our goal this year as we sat down on a cold January evening and made plans for our sale in May. Each year we try to entice the Hostaholics to come to the sale, but we also want to have a variety of tried and true Hostas for our beginners and those that maybe don't take Hostas as seriously as a number of us do.

Following is a list we hope to have. However, weather plays a big part in our supply both from our gardens and the growers:

Abiqua Drinking Gourd	Lollapalooza
Big Daddy	Olive Bailey Langdon
Blue Mouse Ears (2008 Hosta of the Year)	Orange Crush
Clear Ford River Valley	Pandora's Box
Cracker Crumbs	Pineapple Upsidedown Cake
Fragrant Bouquet	Powder Blue
Ghost Spirit	Praying Hands
Guacamole (2002 Hosta of the Year)	Rosedale Golden Goose
Guardian Angel	Solar Flare
Halcyon	Stained Glass (2006 Hosta of the Year)
Ice Age Trail	Teaspoon
Jaz	Twilight Time
Linda Sue	

You can't have just Hosta—you also need companion plants to complement your Hosta. Be sure to visit with the very knowledgeable volunteers in the Hosta area for their recommendations. See you at the Sale!

Sharon Jordan



FAIRY GARDENS

You don't need to believe in fairies to have a fairy garden... but it doesn't hurt. Planting and caring for these miniature gardens are a delight for adults and children.

Begin by choosing low-growing plants and herbs. The scale of plant material is important because the plants create the miniature landscape and make it manageable. Look for plants that grow slowly and can be maintained by trimming them back. Once you've chosen your plants, your imagination can go wild. Adding miniature garden furniture, pebbles for walkways, and trimming your plants to look like trees beside a garden bench are all things that will make your fairy garden intriguing. Look for poly-resin fairies by Cicely Mary Barker. A fairy 3-5 inches tall is ideal.

The following is a short list of miniature plants that work well when creating your garden:

Thyme: Bressingham Seedling, Lemon Frost, Minor Society Garlic	Oregano: creeping, dwarf, Kent beauty, Alpine Lady's Mantle
Dwarf Santolina	Curly Chives
Sage: Dwarf Pink	Many of the alpine plants and miniature hostas
Rosemary: Dancing Waters, Renzels	

The Green Scene plant sale will have a special fairy garden section this year. Look for many of the small alpiners, hostas, and dwarf conifers that would work wonderfully for creating these small landscapes.

Sara Jansen

Become a member of Green Scene. It's never too late to become a Green Scene member or renew an expired membership. If you have not paid dues since last year's sale, you will need to fill out this membership form. You can check your mailing label—if it has no date on it, you are not a current member and need to renew your membership. Members will receive an invitation to the Pre-Sale held Friday, May 11.

Beat the crowds and Renew now! Help us beautify Black Hawk County with a contribution:

- \$10-\$24**
Friend

 \$25-\$49
Contributing

 \$50-\$99
Sustaining

 \$100-\$499
Steward

 \$500+
Patron

_____ Name

_____ Address

_____ City, State ZIP

_____ Email address

_____ Phone

Your pledge is 100% tax-deductible. Green Scene is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization. Your membership dues go directly toward the purchase of trees in Black Hawk County. **Thank you for your support!**

Make checks payable to:
 Green Scene
 P.O. Box 2004
 Waterloo, Iowa 50704



Yes! I am interested in volunteering with Green Scene.



PLANT DONATIONS

Please consider donating to our plant sale any plants you would like to divide, share with others, or just get rid of. Plants can be delivered to Estel Hall Monday, May 7, through Thursday, May 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Our volunteers are happy to come to your garden to dig and/or pick up any plants that you are unable to deliver to the Cattle Congress grounds. Call by May 1 so that we can arrange a collection date for your plants. We'll be very busy the week before the sale; it's important to schedule a specific date for your plants to be collected.

Call Dennis at (319) 233-4252 if you have plant donations that need to be dug or if you would like to be on a dig team. It helps tremendously if we know the variety and color of the plant that is being donated. If you bring plant donations to the sale, please place freshly dug plants in doubled-up plastic grocery bags. Write clearly with a permanent marker on the outside of the bag as much information as you know about the plant, and please water the plants well before you bring them.



HOUSEPLANTS

The prospect of working in our yards and gardens is the only thing that got a lot of us through the winter, but we can't forget about the plants that bring a little bit of nature indoors. The plant sale always has a nice selection of houseplants to fit any décor, lighting requirement, and skill. We'll have an assortment of flowering and foliage plants in both pots and baskets. This is a great place to find small gifts for Mother's Day or to pick up another piece for your indoor garden.



Green Scene
P.O. Box 2004
Waterloo, Iowa 50704

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
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Address Service Requested



31st Annual Plant Sale: Saturday, May 12 • 9 am - Noon
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Each year we depend on many volunteers to help put on the Plant Sale, and it's those volunteers who make it the success that it is.

There's a lot of behind-the-scenes work that goes on all week in order to be ready for Saturday's sale. The week of the sale, we need volunteers in the areas of potting, watering, labeling, digging, and hauling the plants. Working as cashiers, working at the tables, and carrying plants for customers are just a few of the many things our volunteers help with on the day of the sale. **We especially need volunteers on Friday, May 11, and Saturday during the sale.**

The sale itself is dependent upon our volunteers. Thanks to all of you who have helped over the years! It's a great way to learn more about plants, and many friendships have come to be during this week.

If you would like to be involved in this year's sale, please call Sara at (319)266-4409.

Please note: Because of liability concerns, we cannot allow wheeled vehicles (carts, wheelbarrows, strollers, wagons, etc.) in the building at the Plant Sale. We appreciate your cooperation.

County Beautification

Green Scene's primary mission is to provide trees for planting in public areas within Black Hawk County, Iowa.

The Annual Plant Sale is our largest fundraiser. We use half of the profits for planting trees along the streets and rights-of-way in the county's cities and towns.

The remainder is spent on county beautification projects for non-profit organizations like schools, community service groups, and other public places.

The application deadline has passed for 2007, but new requests for each year are due by February. If you know of any non-profit organization planning to beautify areas with trees, please encourage them to apply for our County Beautification funds.

Application letters must include a description of the organization, sketch or plan of where trees will be planted, diameter of trees requested, and a price quote from a nursery for cost of trees.