

Seeds of Success

Phone: 563-359-7577 E-mail: juliab@iastate.edu
Website: www.qcgardengrowers.org

Growing in the Garden

100% of teachers said their students learned from and enjoyed the Growing in the Garden program. They gave the program rave reviews saying it is "a perfect fit" with their science curriculum and "the real-world activities are so meaningful" to students.



There are many ways to help us grow!

Spread the word about The Garden Growers to friends and neighbors who love to garden.

Find a site that could benefit from a garden or green space.

Serve on a committee to assist with fund development, marketing, or other tasks vital to our success.

Make a donation.

Volunteer for the 7th Annual Great Garden Showoff next summer.



To learn more about how you can help call 563-359-7577 or email us at juliab@iastate.edu

In this issue

A Year of Success	1
Thank you.....	2
Great Garden Showoff.....	2
Garden Growers' Volunteers..	3
Recognitions.....	3
Growing in the Garden.....	4
Help us Grow.....	4

Seeds of Success is a publication of The Garden Growers, Quad Cities Community Gardening
Julia Blazevic, Editor
Written by Julia Blazevic
Designed by Angela Hunt

Board of Directors

Jacki O'Donnell, President

Becky Bray, Secretary

Terry Hendershott, Treasurer

Clayton Lloyd

Nathan Brown

Angela Hunt

Julia Blazevic,
The Garden Growers Director

The Garden Growers' Partners

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension
Iowa State University,
Scott County Extension

ISU Scott County Extension,
Master Gardeners

Friendly House

The Garden Growers' mission is to promote healthy lifestyles and beautify our community by building capacity for gardening.

A Year of Success

It was an exciting year for The Garden Growers. The economy, the desire to lead healthier lives, and a new awareness of our impact on global climate change, drew more people to community gardening than in past years.

The Garden Growers stayed true to its mission to make gardening affordable. We kept plot-rental costs low—for \$10 a year, gardeners could rent a garden plot, get free seeds and starter plants, and borrow gardening tools. We also paid for rototilling at our community gardens.

In collaboration with Scott County Extension, The Garden Growers provided its 8th year of hands-on life science education to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students in 14 Davenport Elementary Schools. Students increased their gardening

knowledge by an average of 6.23 points during the program.

The Garden Growers collaborated with *First Presbyterian Church* and *First Baptist Church*, in Davenport, as well as Davenport's *Boys and Girls Club*, supplying them with seeds, starter plants, and gardening tools. We paid for rototilling and gave seeds and plants to residents at *Servicemen's Home of the QCA*, to children at *Children's Village at Hayes Elementary School* in Davenport, and to residents of *Family Resources' Bridge and Anchorage Houses*, at Annie Wittenmyer Center.

The demand for our services was huge and we assisted as many gardeners as we possibly could, but eventually, we ran out of space, time, and funds, even before the season was over. As a result, we are already planning to add new garden sites in spring 2010.



Jacki O'Donnell, Becky Bray and Julia Blazevic enjoy the Great Garden Showoff 2009

Thank YOU to our Recent Donors...

Grants and Corporate Donors
Davenport Noon Optimist Club
Lori L. Estes Trust
Riverboat Development Authority
Tri-City Garden Club

Gold Trowel Individual Donors
Robert and Patricia Lane
Vickie A. Pruter

Silver Trowel Individual Donors
Lori Estes

Bronze Trowel Individual Donors
Wendy Kraft
Dr. Cynthia Long
Jeralee and James Mannhardt
Mrs. John H. Staak
Hovey and Maggie Tinsman
Mary H. Waterman

In-Kind Donors
Iowa-American Water Company
John and Jay VenHorst
Deb and Randy Hughes

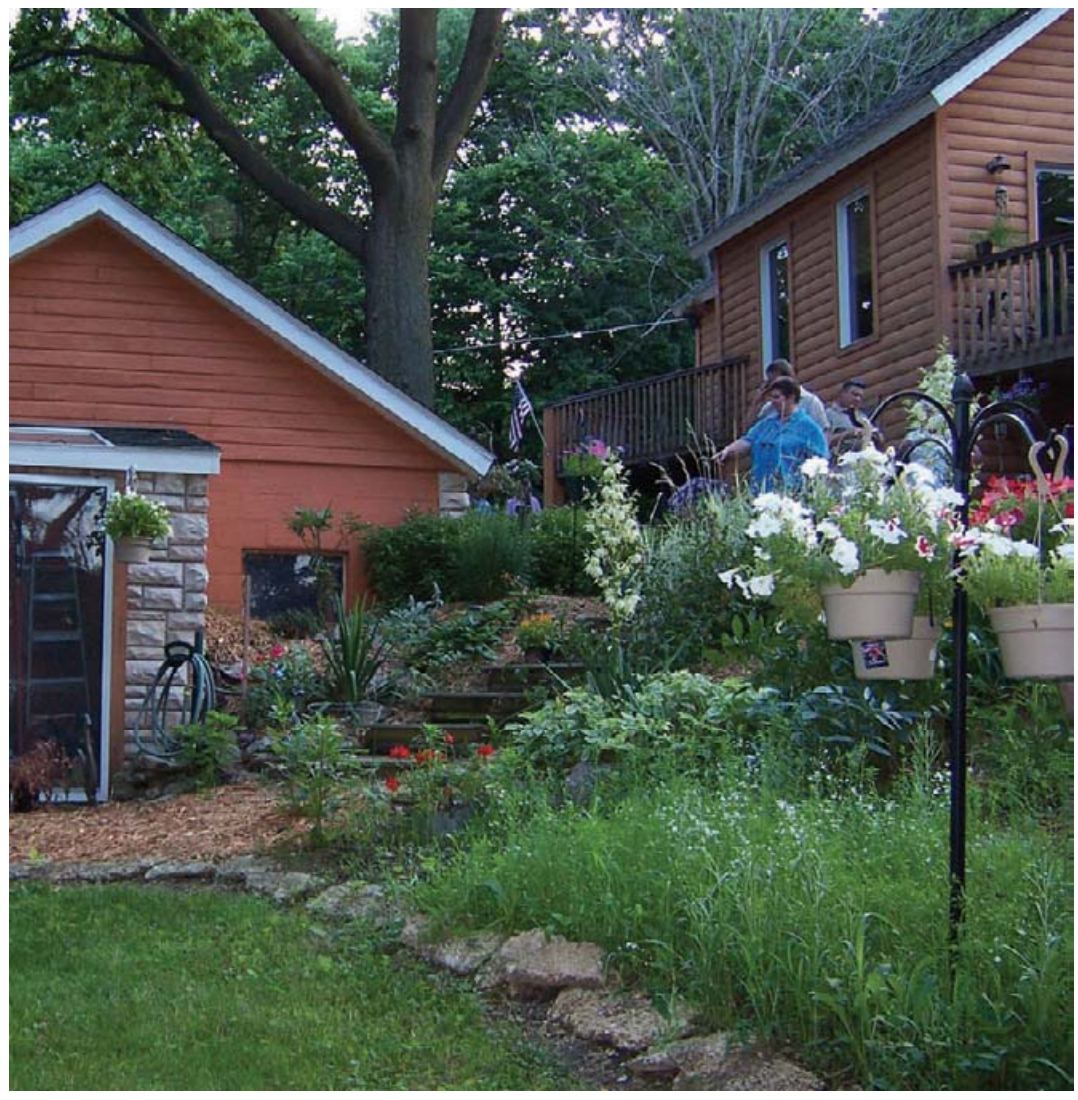
...and Volunteers
ISU Scott County Extension
Master Gardeners

We Couldn't GROW without YOU!!!



Vicki Vavra, Extension Master Gardener, The Great Garden Showoff Committee Chairperson

The 6th Great Garden Showoff



Visitors admire one of the gardens on the tour

The 6th Annual Great Garden Showoff was held on June 23 and 24, 2009. Six gardens, in the area south of Locust and west of Division Street, were part of the tour. Also included was one drive-by garden on Telegraph Road, and Nahant Marsh, that was kept open after-hours for the Great Garden Showoff visitors. The weather looked threatening on the first day, but fortunately, there was no rain.

About 250 visitors, from 25 different towns and both states, came to the event. They praised us for continuing to keep the event free of charge even in hard economic times.

As in the past, ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardeners were crucial in making the event possible.

Our tools have a home now, thanks to RDA!

Riverboat Development Authority provided The Garden Growers with a matching grant to purchase a tool shed. The shed is shared with Extension Master Gardeners and is used to store hand-tools, a garden rototiller, hoses, and gardening supplies used, FREE of charge, by community gardeners.

They Helped our Gardens **GROW**


Since 1997, The Garden Growers has been providing people with the means to raise food for their tables, beautify their surroundings, and interact with their neighbors.

The success of the organization is due in part to the volunteers who generously give their time and share their talents.

The Garden Growers **Volunteers** Jacki O'Donnell

Jacki has been associated with The Garden Growers since its inception, holding the position of president of the Board of Directors. She has been an ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardener for over 15 years. Now that her two children are grown, she works at U.S. Bank as executive assistant to the regional president. She has lived in the Quad Cities for 25 years and has been an active volunteer in the community. In 2007, U.S. Bank awarded her the Five Star Volunteer Award, a recognition of her outstanding volunteer service to The Garden Growers.





The Garden Growers
Quad Cities Community Gardening

Yes, I want to continue to support community gardening in the Quad Cities!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Donation: _____\$500 _____\$75
 _____ \$250 _____ \$50
 _____ \$100 _____ Other \$ _____

Please mail to: The Garden Growers
875 Tanglefoot Lane
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Your donation is tax deductible.

The Garden Growers work was recognized

by the Mayor of Davenport who proclaimed May 2009 The Garden Growers month.

Our previous work in Rock Island was acknowledged by the **National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Office – NAHRO** – with an **Award of Merit** in recognition for The Garden Growers gardening projects at Spencer Towers, Sunset Heights, Manor Homes, and Lincoln Homes, all in Rock Island.