



## THE BRENTON ARBORETUM

### Fall 2015 Newsletter

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**Andy Schmitz**  
Director of Horticulture  
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**Elizabeth Wingert**  
Director of Education,  
Membership & Outreach

The journal Nature recently reported on a study which showed the presence of three trillion trees on our planet, seven times more than scientists previously thought, but several trillion fewer than before human civilization. The study further found that fifteen billion trees are cut down each year with five billion replanted. At this rate of loss, we will lose our trees in three hundred years. Trees, the article points out, are by far the most prominent organism on our planet.

The Arnold Arboretum in Boston, a very renowned research arboretum, recently announced that "the mounting effects of climate change and all alteration of environments due to human activity threaten the survival of roughly one out of three plant species in the world."

What do these almost incomprehensible studies mean? To me they mean a very slow process of negative change which will inevitably adversely affect life on our planet.

So here at the small Brenton Arboretum, we, like many other arboreta, try to confront these forces by exhibiting trees and offering relevant education. And we ask you to do something about it and yes, we can all make a difference. If not us, who? Be informed. Speak about the issue. Try to use less water and energy where you can. Also, become aware of our political choices in these matters, and vote.

#### WHAT IS GOING ON HERE



**New Executive Director:** I am very pleased to announce that Melissa Burdick, currently Director of Horticulture at Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha, will join us as executive director in October of this year. Her background and education is in horticulture and administration. Melissa and her family will be moving to our area very soon and I welcome her coming very much.

**New Board Member:** Dr. William Niebur, Vice President with Dupont Pioneer, will be moving with his family back to Des Moines from Beijing, China in October and joining our board. In addition to being a well-known genetic scientist, Bill has shown deep interest in Des Moines and its institutions, having lived here previously. We are very pleased to welcome Bill to the board.



**Ben Bright:** For six years, Ben Bright has been an absolutely superb assistant to Andy Schmitz. He helps care for our plants and grounds. As much as anyone, he is indispensable. Much of the way things look out here is because of him. Thank you, Ben!

**Grant:** We recently received a fine grant to update our master plan. Oehme van Sweden, an outstanding Washington D.C. landscape architectural firm specializing in natural areas, will do the work.

**Library:** The Arboretum is just now completing the job of putting all of the books in our small library on the standard library catalog system. The books in this library are for your use. Please stop in and choose a book. We are fully cataloged, thanks to volunteers Rosemary Killmer-Thornley and Teresa Wichtendahl.

**Collaboration:** The Arboretum and the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden are offering joint programming to their members in several classes and activities. This is a first for us and seems a natural.

**Collections Committee:** There are six standing committees of our board of directors, but no more important one than the Collections Committee. This committee oversees the type of trees and shrubs we plant and, equally important, what we don't plant. The subject of which woody plants with what characteristics and background to use is paramount to our look and quality as an arboretum site. These discussions are never-ending and will be further refined in a forthcoming writing. Andy Schmitz chairs this committee. We will report to you.

**Dog Policy:** Many of you bring dogs to the arboretum. Membership or dog passes are now required with a leash in hand as you walk your dog under voice command. We love dogs, but their control is paramount.

**Happenings:** The marvelously wet summer has been busy with increased visitation, classes, and rentals. We also recently added a very successful work day with eleven helpers. They are Ron Belew, Lorry Hokscho, Ian Kennedy, Karen Kennedy, Lauren Kennedy, Paige Kennedy, Rich Myers, Lyman Schwarch, Audra Warmuth, and Ellen Weiss. Thank you for your help! Membership has also grown to over 370. Come visit. It is more beautiful each year.

**Please Remember** that we rent to our members the use of our Vista room with reception area, as well as the open air (but screened from the wind) green roof Pavilion. Both venues offer stunning views. And lastly, volunteers in a number of areas are always welcomed and needed. Please call Beth Wingert at 515.992.4211 or see our brochure or website for more information.

Thank You,  
Buz Brenton

## Our Native Witch-Hazel

by Andy Schmitz



Over 15 years ago now, the Arboretum decided to strive to acquire and plant all the native Iowa woody trees and shrubs. At this time, additional groupings of approximately 120 different Iowa native species, mainly shrubs and small trees were added to our master plan by architect Tony Tyznik. The original master plan designed by Mr. Tyznik back in 1996 already included over 45 different native Iowa tree species. Since then, over 120 of the 160 some native Iowa woody plants species have been planted with the tree species being distributed around the entire Arboretum while shrubs species being displayed on the north side in the “Iowa Native Collection”

In the past few years, we have added to our Collection Policy that we will enhance our collections through growing plants collected from known high quality native populations. This mission holds true for all our woody plants at the Arboretum, be they a native Iowa species, a North American species, or Asian species. To start our endeavors and to start closer to home, we made a goal that over time we would grow and plant out at least one plant collected from a known sourced tree or shrub within the borders of Iowa for each of the Iowa Native species.

Several native woody plants can be found in Dallas County but others can only be found amongst the limestone bluffs of Northeast Iowa. One of these plants is the common witch-hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*, which has a native Iowa distribution along the bluffs of the Mississippi in just a few counties, but the extent of its native range covers much of the eastern United States. When found in its native habitat it will be growing in cool moist shady habitats, but it grows just as well in full sun. This multi-stemmed small tree can reach heights of 20-25 feet. The interesting thing about this plant is that you will find it in flower from mid-October into December making it one of the last plants to flower. Its showy fragrant yellow flowers cover the branches and are usually mixed in with its leaves displaying yellow fall color. There are six specimens of common witch-hazels at the Arboretum and they can be found close to Willow Bridge on the north side.



Common Witch-Hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*

In mid-September, Jeff Carstens from the Plant Introduction Station in Ames, Iowa and I set out to collect native plants in Northeastern Iowa including the common witch-hazel. Our first stop was Bixby State Preserve in Clayton County where we had observed witch-hazel back in October of 2014 while collecting the native bush honeysuckle, *Diervilla lonicera*. This year we were early enough to collect seed from four individual plants. We also went to Mossy Glen State Preserve where more seeds were collected from over 40 or so plants growing there. The entire time while gathering the fruit capsules and observing a few flowers just emerging, Jeff and I were trying to think of another plant we knew of which is flowering and fruiting at the same time. We couldn't think of one. A few thousand seeds were collected and deposited into the National Plant Germplasm System for long term preservation, while some will be grown out to plant a tree here at the Arboretum.



Common Witch-Hazel,  
*Hamamelis virginiana*

After leaving Bixby and heading to the Yellow River State Forest area, we made a quick stop at Pikes Peak State Park to look for paper birch, *Betula papyrifera*, and we found a few growing on top of the limestone bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. As we descended the boardwalk on Bridal Veil Falls Trail into the cool moist valley below, we found ourselves walking under a canopy of native witch-hazels. Now growing up in Waterloo, a family day trip to Pikes Peak State Park to view fall color became a family tradition for the Schmitz's. As a younger child, it was where I first discovered the *Carya* (hickory) genus because as we would sit on a blanket for a picnic lunch the ground would be covered in hickory nuts to break out of their thick shells. After lunch and taking in the spectacular views of the Mississippi River and the bluffs on the Wisconsin side, our family would head down some hiking trails at the park. Who knew that 30 some years ago, I was walking amongst the same witch-hazels I observed on this recent seed trip.

This two day jaunt over to Northeast Iowa scored six new Iowa wild collected species of common witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), American cranberry bush viburnum (*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*), nannyberry viburnum (*Viburnum lentago*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) and butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) along with making note of future collecting sites. Watch for these new additions in the years to come.

As the days get cooler and the fall season is almost gone, stop on out to view the witch-hazels in bloom. You won't regret it.

<b>Patron</b>	Sandahl, Liz and Craig	Yearick, Phyllis and Mike	Fusco, Nancy
Bean, Lisa and Andy	Stammerman, Pat and Bill		Garten, Linda and Bill
Brandt, Marietta	Stine, Harry	<b>Family</b>	Gelb, Marian and Sam
Brenton, Julia and Woody	Varley, Evelyn and Carl	Anderson, Ann and Sig	Gift, Marilyn and Bill
Brenton, Julie and Bob Galbraith	Wichtendahl, Teresa and Kevin	Allen, Melinda and Jim	Goldenberg, Aviva
Eddy, Elizabeth	Winterhof, Janis and Roger	Allen, Pam and Reid	Goldsmith, Lee and Carl
Gentleman, Julia		Amend, Nancy and Dick	Gomez, Lisa and Troy
Harrington, Janice and Phil	<b>Supporter</b>	Andrle, Kerrin and Clint	Gralewski, Eileen and Steve
Hurd, Trudy and Dave	Albertson, William	Appelgate, Linda	Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity
Jester, Patty and Bob	Barrett, Judy and Tom	Bailey, Shelly and Ken	Green, Elaine
Kirk Elliot, Catherine	Beavers, Ann and Doug	Baldner, Clair and Ann	Grundberg, Betty and Arnie
Levitt, Jeanne and Dick	Biermann, Bill	Banse, Karen and Tom	Hagen, Tom
Palmer, Jean and Jim	Book, Michelle	Bissell, Anna and John	Harrington, Katherine and Scott
Ruan Foundation	Christensen, Sandra and Dale	Bloodgood, Jeanne	Harris, Stephanie and Jason
Simonson, Michael	Conway, Andrea	Bone, Nancy	Hart, Mary and Jon
Urban, Mary and Tom	DeCamp, Sharon and Bob	Bouma, Whitney and Skip	Henderson, Karen and Bob
Weitz, Emily and Fred	Drake, David	Brenton, Sue and Buz	Hensley, Chad
Weitz, Linda and Steve	Duvick, Selma	Brenton, Ken and Valerie	Highland Park Garden Club
Wiley, Deb and John Schmidt	Eby, Mary and Fred	Sturdevant	Hill, Chelsea and Martin
	Eckoff, Barb and Ron	Bridges, Anne and Bob	Holland, Elizabeth and Damon
<b>Benefactor</b>	Fagen, Marsha and Chuck	Brubaker, Mary	Hunsberger, Deborah
Brenton, Babette and Bob	Fleming, Allison and Jim	Bulgarelli, Donna Mae and Aldo	Iles, Jeff
Brown, Ralph	Fox, Lynn and Jim	Bures, Natasha and Steve	ISU Extension and Outreach
Burkert, Jean	Funk, Charlie	Burkett, Jen and David	Jackson, Maridel and Walter
Burnett, Rochelle and Doug	Grieve, Mary Anne and Doug	Calkins, Anita and Richard	Lawson, Jim and Rachel Stauffer
Eddy, Cathy and Bill	Hanson, Tamera and Mark	Carstens, Jeff	Johnson, Ed
Geadelmann, Ann and Wayne	Hays, Mary	Chizek, Mitzi and Wayne	Johnson, Jacqueline
Hornaday, Bill	Henderson, Stacey	Chleborad, Carolyn and Don	Jorgensen, Cathy and Mark
Hunt, Dave and Connie Hass	Howell, Virginia	City of Dallas Center	Kennedy, Karen and Jeff
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Kelley, Susan and Bruce	Jacobs, Marian	Colyer, Haverlee	Knapp, Myra and Bill
Larson, Caroline and Ron	Jahn, Leila and David	Cooper, Maggie	Knisley, Christopher
Murken, Dewey	Jutila, Stephanie and Tom Seltz	Cornell, Mary and Pete	Kress, Danielle and Eric
Peyton, Diann and Dean	Kane, Loulou and Mark	Cory Kuker, Susan	Kuhn, Lynn and Nick
Rhinehart, Judy and Charlie	King, Jill and Bradley	Cox, Carrie	Laffey, Anita and Lon
Sloan, Joan and Paul Meginnis	Leachman, John	Crittenden, Nancy and Paul	Laine, Susan and Erick
	Lehman, Gay	Currier, Sue and Russ	Levi, Rick
<b>Sustainer</b>	Lehmann, Tad	Dallas County Conservation Board	Levine, Ann and Bryan McCay
Anders, Carrie and Bruce	Levine, Tracy	Day, Judy and Don	Levine, Caroline
Brown, Lisa and Peter	Lonergan, JoAnne and John	Decker, Cindi	Lickteig, Michele and Russ
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Conner, Leona and Ralph	Mathers, Betty and Jeff	Diddy	Derven
German, Pam and Bob	Matthes, Bobbie	Dolmage, Cindy and Denny	Mackie, Nancy and Michelle
Ghrist, Joan	McVey, Anita and Marty	Drilling, Dot and Bob	Marckmann, Wendy
Hadden, Tina and Tom	O'Brien, Cathy	Elmer, Bethany and Spencer	Markus, Danielle
Haines, Wayne	Owens, Elizabeth and Bill Brock	Engelhardt, Sharyl and Jon	Mather, Treva and Balbir
Hill, Sara	Poertner, Shirley	Everhart, Connis and Dennis	McAdon, Julie and David
Hubbell, Charlotte and Fred	Randall, Emily and Jason	Farris, Patricia and Paul	McAdon, Shirley and Kent
Larson, Jeff	Reeve, Patty and Ted	Ferjak, Deb and Mike	McKnight, Erika and Glen
Lederhaas, Erin and George	Riche, Mary	Fettkether, Martha and Roger	McNeel, David
Markusen, Lockie	Schulz, Ron	Findlay, Diane and Robert	Meyer, Kay and Rusty
Mattiussi, Karen	Schwab, Margaret and Carl	Forsman, Judy and Don	Midtlyng, Mary Kay and Dave
Michalek, Carroll and Richard	Scott, Joyce and Bill	Foster, Shirley	Milligan, Judy
Michel, Shirley and Ray	Shives, Kathy and Craig	Frederick, Ann and Al	Minger, Tom
Moore, Polly	Taylor, Julie and Larry	Friedel, Amy and Aaron	Mlinar, Ann and Mark
Myers, Rich	Weiss, Ellen and Doug	Frisk, Nancy and Bob	Mouw, Brenda and Bernie
Nicholson, Judith and John	Wells, Karolyn and Michael		
Rennebohm, Mary Anne and Bob	Windsor, Sandy and Jim		

### Family, continued...

Myers, Nancy and Steve  
Myers, Sara and Larry  
Myszewski, Michael and Martha James  
Novak, Kay and Joel  
Patterson, Crystal  
Pendry, Charlton and Alec  
Perkins, Pam and Dave  
Perrigo, Danielle  
Peters, Renae and Carl  
Peters, Shirley and Richard  
Ramsay, Shannon  
Rauschenberg, Teri and David  
Riccelli, Christine and Andy Ball  
Rychnovsky, Jackie  
Schaefer, Carolyn and Greg  
Schlaefer, Roger and Marge Hammer  
Schmitz, Nancy and Dan  
Schmitz, Katie and Bart  
Schmitz, Vicki and Tom  
Schneller, Judy and John  
Shepherd, Jeani and Ken  
Smith, Karen  
Snyder, Carolyn and Paul  
Spear, Jo Ann and Tom  
Spivie, Anita  
Spurgeon Manor, Inc.  
States, Gerri and Greg  
Steed, Judy and Robert  
Sternberg, Edie and Guy  
Stetzel, Paula and Scott  
Strohbeen, Karen and Bill  
Luchsinger  
Strom, Becky and Byron  
Swinton, David and Wanda Greif

Tyler, Eileen and Paul  
Urbandale Federated Garden Club  
van der Linden, Judy and Peter  
Varley, Marilyn and Andy  
Vaske, Brooke  
Ver Steeg, Adele and Dirk  
Vernon, Chris  
Vogel, Ruth  
Waldron, Kari and Pat  
Warmuth, Audra and Michael  
Weber, Vince  
Wessels, Andrea and Eric  
Wilk, Mary Beth and Gabriel  
Williams, Corrine and David  
Wilson, Cherri and Derek  
Woline, Trudy and Bob  
Wouters, Susan and Todd

### Individual

Allen, Stephanie  
Armentrout, Jill  
Baker, Vicky and Mike  
Beck, Allan  
Beh, Mary  
Beyer, Gretchen and Jared  
Black, Craig  
Broderick, Pat  
Brown Mehalovich, Mary  
Burke, Scott  
Bury, Dean  
Button, Joyce  
Cooper, Deborah  
Cross, Alice  
Deaver, Jackie and Scott  
Dinsmore, Andrew  
Earhart, Cy

Eason, Ginny  
Erickson, Kate  
Farrow, Barbara  
Fieg, Karen  
Gibson, Jan  
Gilbertson, Tim  
Gilham, June  
Hagelberg, Nancy  
Halfpap, Jen and Jason  
Hance, Dave  
Hannan, Merilee and Joseph  
Havenhill, Amy  
Hegarty, Suzanne  
Hohmann, Heidi  
Hohn, Amber  
Hoksch, Lorry  
Hom, Helen  
Hulen, Sharon and Bill  
Jordahl, Don  
Kinnaird, Keri  
Kirk, Bonnie  
Kline, Jessalyn and Mark  
Knight, Jody  
Lande, Shelley  
Lang, Barbara  
Larsen, Robert  
Madison, Robin  
Mapes, Christine  
Martin, Nancy  
McAvaddy, Audra  
McVey, Phillip  
Michaelis, Jean  
Mills, Miles Jr.  
Moore, James  
Murphy-Petersen, Devon  
Nunn, Glenis  
Oothout, Mary

Otis, Matthew  
Overton, Kip  
Pell, Teresa  
Perkins, Scott  
Qualls, Ross  
Rhiner, Deb  
Riggins, Ashley  
Rollins, Sally  
Rottler, Steve  
Scharlau, Colleen  
Schechinger, Kristin  
Schmidt, Lorraine  
Schwarch, Lyman  
Shank, Mike  
Shannon, Arlene  
Shaw, Nancy  
Shefchek, Sara  
Sims, Alma  
Stark, Craig  
Steele, Linda  
Stjernberg, Cathy  
Strum, Teresa  
Textor, Mary  
Thurtell, Janet  
VanDerSluis, Verle

### Honorary

Hacker, Jason  
Heathcote, Susan  
Heinicke, Ray  
Laws, Barry  
Olson, Stan  
Petersen-Keys, Patrice  
Van Werden, Sue and Jim

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Greater DM Botanical Garden: Annual Symposium

Saturday, October 31 from 9:30am to 4:15pm

The annual symposium is the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden's signature educational opportunity for advancing gardening in Iowa. Each fall, four nationally acclaimed lecturers are invited to Des Moines to engage in a narrative discussion of home horticulture, plant sciences or ecology. Register for the class using your Brenton Arboretum membership card and receive the reduced rate of \$80!

For More information and to register, visit [dmbotanicalgarden.com](http://dmbotanicalgarden.com).

\$95, Non-Members

\$80, Members

\$45, Students

