

Cramer-Kenyon Home Garden Tours Sept. 9

The Cramer-Kenyon Historic Home will host its inaugural Fall Garden and Landscaping Tours on Sunday, Sept. 9, running from 1-5 p.m.

The following gardens and landscaped areas will be available for viewing and hospitality:

- Kent and Ruby Goeden at 1905 Green Street, Yankton
- Mark and Deb Stevens at 300 Northern Avenue, Yankton
- Sharon and Randy Bylander at 815 Maple Street, Yankton
- Jim and JoEllen Bowers at 701 West 10th Street, Yankton
- Jay and Debbie Bailey at 417 Pine Street, Yankton
- Cramer-Kenyon Historic Home at 509 Pine Street

There is no particular order in which the gardens and landscaping must be viewed. Guests may start at any point. Refreshments will be served at the Cramer-Kenyon Home.

This is a fund-raising project to provide resources for the upkeep and continuing restoration of the Home so that it may be enjoyed by the public for many years to come.

Tickets may be purchased at Hy-Vee, the Cramer-Kenyon Home or at any of the homes on the tour.

For further information, contact Ruby Goeden at 665-3450 or 661-5757.

Animal Island:

Be Proactive  
With That  
Dachshund

BY MARC MORRONE  
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**Q:** We just lost our 15-year-old dachshund and are planning to get a dachshund puppy, as we love the breed. Ours, however, have always suffered from back problems and disc issues. We were wondering if there was anything we could do for our new puppy to prevent such issues when she gets older?

**A:** I love dachshunds as well and have always had them. For all short-legged breeds, back issues are largely the luck of the draw.

To get the odds in your favor, concentrate on keeping the dog's weight down. Start by training the puppy not to beg for food all the time. If the dog carries less weight, there is less stress on the spine. This is hard in a dog like a dachshund that has a strong food drive, but it really makes a big difference later on in the dog's life.

Jumping up and down from furniture is also a problem with this breed. Dogs have no idea of their physical limitations and cannot comprehend any consequences from their actions.

If you get the dog used to using puppy stairs or ramps from an early age, you will never have to worry about the dog crashing to the floor off the couch when the doorbell rings.

The whole situation is about being proactive.

**Q:** I am a senior and enjoy walking in the afternoon with my poodle when the area is quiet. There is a house that I pass on a busy road that has no fence. The family has a large, boxer-type dog that always rushes out to bark at us when we pass. As soon as we get near the house, I pick up my dog and carry her past. Thus far, all the other dog does is bark and he never gets closer than 10 feet or so. But I am still nervous about what to do. My husband says to carry pepper spray, but I cannot imagine being able to use it on the dog. Do you have any suggestions?

**A:** It is never a good idea to use aggression in any circumstance \_ especially when you are in a confrontational situation with a strong animal with sharp teeth.

I have found that any charging dog just meaning to do mischief will stop short when a closed umbrella is pointed at it and then is suddenly popped open.

The action of the umbrella opening really startles it, and the dog usually looks for another way to entertain itself.

It may be a bit easier to carry a can of pepper spray

rather than the umbrella, but I do believe that you will feel and be safer with the umbrella, in the end.

I cannot imagine how these people can allow their dog to be loose in front of their house without a fence separating it from the road. Perhaps they have an invisible fence, but an angry dog can still cross one of those if the attraction is strong enough.

**Q:** Our ferret was chewing on the bars of her cage and broke one of her long canine teeth in her lower jaw in half. She seems fine with it and does not seem in any pain, but we were wondering if it may interfere with her eating.

**A:** You should take her to a vet who knows about ferrets to get the tooth extracted or capped.

I have seen ferrets that broke a tooth as yours did and even though everything seemed fine at first, a few weeks later they develop a bad abscess and infection in the jaw right below the broken tooth. This means lots of antibiotics and supportive care that can compromise your ferret's health.

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MARC MORRONE

ABANDONED PETS

When you take a walk in local parks in the summer, you often see floppy-eared brown-and-white bunnies grazing on picnic tables, and white Pekin and Muscovy ducks swimming in lakes. On the logs floating in the water are dozens of red-eared slider turtles. So what is wrong with this picture?

None of these animals are supposed to be there. They were all pets that were abandoned by uncaring owners.

The bunnies and ducks will die in the winter. The turtles will out-compete native Eastern Painted Turtles. The cats, even if they are neutered, fed and managed by kindhearted individuals who take pity on them, will wreak havoc on native rodents and songbirds.

There are many valid reasons why you may not be able to keep a pet and, yes, it may be difficult to find another home for that animal. But it is wrong to just dump a pet outdoors to fend for itself.

I encourage you to be patient while you try to get help from private animal adoption and rescue agencies, school-teachers or pet store owners who may be willing to take the animal off your hands.

But if they cannot do it for you right away, you must be responsible and wait until they can.



LEFT: "Pee Gee" hydrangea now in bloom, along with the "Annabele" or "Bella Anna" is an example of region hardy shrubs. ABOVE: While native "Tiger Eye" is popular for its lime green leaves throughout the season and fall color. (Photos: Brenda K. Johnson)

The Tried And True

Dry Weather?  
Try Some Old  
Garden Standbys

BY BRENDA K. JOHNSON  
P&D Correspondent

*It's tempting to consider only the newest plant varieties as best choices for fall or spring planting. Given weather challenges to gardeners, perhaps some tried and true plants or recent cultivars of these standbys are worth a second look.*

Which Plant Is Right For You-  
Newest Or Tried And True?

**A:** "We hope dry conditions break," Jay Gurney said, "but it doesn't sound like they are going to." Gurney has been owner and nurseryman at Yankton Nurseries, LLC, 2000 Ferdig Ave. for the past thirty years. "I grew up in the Gurney nursery business and worked on company weeding crews like so many in this area."

He said that customers want plants that are reliable as well as attractive. They want long-blooming plants with leaf interest, that are resistant to insects and disease, easy to care for, and have other special features such as taste in apples.

"Here at the nursery, we have plants that grow in our fields year after year with little irrigation. 'Moonbeam' and newer 'Route 66' Coreopsis, 'Goblin' Gaillardia, common purple coneflower and more recent 'Magnus' Echinacea, and 'May Night' Salvia are hardy, long-flowering, and have been improved."

Plants require water to live. In absence of rain, a lot of hand watering is tedious. Gurney pointed out that often our home irrigation systems water the lawn but are not set for perennials, shrubs, and trees which have different needs than grass. Finding hardy plants that require less water may shorten hand-watering time that is necessary in dry conditions.

"It's hard watering in my yard at home, but (with plants that appear to be dead, such as daylilies) I'll give them a shot of water to see if they come back." He said that 'Stella D'Oro' and 'Happy Returns' daylilies have fared better in dry conditions than the taller and more exotic daylilies.

**SHRUBS**

When asked about shrubs and trees that have been popular over time and are still worth consideration, Gurney referred to a Bailey Nurseries wholesale catalog from twenty years ago. Bailey Nurseries of St. Paul has supplied many plant retailers of this region for years. Listed with this article are examples of perennials, grasses, shrubs and trees that he found reliable.

"Annabelle" hydrangea, often planted on north and east sides of homes, is one the few shrubs that will bloom in shade and can take some sun," he said. "Pink 'Bella Anna' hydrangea stays true color without soil treatment."

"Barberries have been improved," Gurney said. "We know it's no fun to trim a thorny bar-



PHOTO: BRENDA K. JOHNSON  
**'Morden Centennial' rose is a hardy Canadian rose in the Parkland Series and is a heavy bloomer according to Jay Gurney.**

berry. Sometimes pygmy barberries that are supposed to grow two feet tall become four feet tall. 'Dwarf Bagatelle' is smaller and more compact than a pygmy and needs little pruning. Because many homes have little yard space between the house and lawn, these fit well."

Some shrubs require the protection of the east side of the house to avoid excess wind and sun. He remarked that while this region is USDA Hardiness Zone 5A, some areas respond more like Zone 4.

"I haven't seen a rhododendron in this area that is ten years old and not a 'PJM.' 'Northern Lights' series of azaleas also grow better on the protected east side of the house. Golden elder is predictably better than the purple or variegated varieties."

"Tea roses have grafted roots and need to be covered in winter. There are thousands of cultivars to choose from, but 'Peace,' 'Queen Elizabeth,' and 'Mister Lincoln' are examples that have been around for years."

"When customers ask for the toughest re-blooming rose bush, I show them the Canadian roses in the Parkland Series. 'Morden Centennial' is a pink heavy bloomer. 'Ruby,' 'Blush,' and 'Fireglow' are also disease resistant and winter hardy in the series. Hardy climbing roses include the Explorer se-

ries from Canada: 'William Baffin' and 'John Cabot.'

TREES

"The most planted sugar maple for fall color is 'Green Mountain' and it's an example of a newer variety of a tried and true plant. It has orange / red fall display. Leaves are thick and waxy and can take the April leaf tatter that is a problem with other sugar maples," Gurney said.

"Many varieties of apples that you see in the grocery store can't stand up to this region's wind and weather when the tree is twenty feet tall. The classics 'Haralson,' 'Cortland,' and 'Connell Red' tend to be cedar-apple rust resistant and hardy. 'Honeycrisp' is a taste favorite but may need to be sprayed for the disease."

"My sour cherries get eaten by the birds before I net them," he said. 'Stella' and 'Lapinds' cherry trees are being trialed in the area. Other fruit trees include 'Contender,' 'Reliance' or 'Bailey Hardy' peach, 'Sun Gold,' or 'Moon Gold' apricots, 'Northern Pears' from the University of Minnesota or 'Summer Crisp' pear."

Newly developed plants can be the rare show- stoppers for the yard. Tried and true plants or their more recent cultivars are often hardy and may be resistant to diseases of the region.

'Tried –True',  
Cultivar Examples

- Perennials / Grasses:  
'Moonbeam' or 'Route 66' coreopsis  
Purple coneflower or  
'Magnus' Echinacea  
Gaillardia, 'Goblin'  
'May Night' salvia  
'Karl Foerster' reed grass  
or 'Avalanche' ornamental grass  
'Malepartus' Miscanthus ornamental grass
- Shrubs:  
Pygmy barberry, 'Dwarf Bagatelle' barberry  
'Annabelle' hydrangea or 'Bella Anna' or H. Macrophylla  
'PJM' Rhododendron  
Northern Lights series of azaleas  
Golden elder  
Parkland series of roses:  
'Morden Centennial' rose or 'Ruby' 'Blush' or 'Fireglow'  
Explorer series of roses:  
'William Baffin' or 'John Cabot'  
Tea roses: 'Peace' or 'Queen Elizabeth' or 'Mister Lincoln'
- Trees:  
'Green Mountain' sugar maple  
'Haralson' or 'Honeycrisp' or 'Cortland' or 'Connell Red' or 'Northwest Greening' apple  
'Stella' and 'Lapinds' cherry trees are being trialed in the area.  
'Contender' or 'Reliance' or 'Bailey Hardy' peach  
'Sun Gold' or 'Moon Gold' apricots  
Northern pears from the University of Minnesota or 'Summer Crisp' pear

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