

I noticed that there was a home show in Waterloo this weekend. It's about that time of year when we all get tired of winter and start dreaming of spring. I know I am tired of the snow, ice, cold weather, cancelled school days, etc., just plain old WINTER! What better way to brighten your spirits than to think of warm weather, sunshine and flowers?

My yard at home is pretty small, but my children think that a secret garden would be cool. Once upon a time, I did buy a little motor to make a fountain and what with one thing and another, never got around to implementing it. This winter I've branched out and actually found time to feed the birds, so I think maybe it is time to get that fountain going... Where would be a good place to put it? What other equipment do I need? What types of flowers work best in the sun and not in the sun? Do I think I can handle other landscaping, too?? I think that I like flowers and the look of flowers, but I don't have time for extra work. So, I need to be looking for low maintenance flowers. And I need to figure out a way to interest my children so they want to help since it is beginning with their ideas.

We have some really good gardening books here at the Waverly Public Library. For example, to get children interested in gardening, you could check out *Down & dirty: 43 fun & funky first-time projects & activities to get you gardening*, *Starting gardening*, and *Busy in the garden. Wildlife-friendly plants : make your garden a haven for beneficial insects, amphibians and birds* could interest your young gardeners because it connects gardening and wildlife.

*Lasagna gardening with herbs: enjoy fresh flavor, fragrance, and beauty with no digging, no tilling, no weeding, no kidding!* looks very interesting because it is a way of gardening that works in layers like a lasagna and takes less work and less space. Other books that looked intriguing were *The Gardening Book*, *AHS garden problem solver*, *Garden projects in a weekend*, *Landscape for Dummies*, and *1,112 down-to-earth garden secrets : here are tips that really work-- from backyard gardeners across the country*. We even have a video entitled *Garden design & renovation* for the more visual gardener.

Chatting with patrons in the checkout line here at Waverly Public Library, I see all of the magazines focusing on summer and gardening right now being checked out, too. People are getting in that frame of mind everywhere. As you are dreaming of summer and flowers, be sure to take a look at the recent issues of *Iowa Gardening*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Our Iowa*, *Organic Gardening*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and *Ladies Home Journal* for more gardening tips to get you inspired.

Another great way for you and your children to get involved in gardening together even if you don't have space in your own yard, is to adopt a garden area here at the Waverly Public Library. We will soon have a volunteer sign-up for the different sections in our butterfly garden behind the library. Individuals, or groups, are encouraged to sign up for a garden section and be in charge of taking care of that area for the summer. You could make a trip to the library, check out books on flowers and plants, and then implement some of your newfound knowledge by taking care of gardens here at the library. You could help create beauty for everyone to enjoy and learn something about gardening along the way. The Waverly Public Library is a place of beauty and learning in many shapes and forms. Come, share, and enjoy it with us!