

Service-Learning Abroad:

A Successful Approach to Rebuilding a Historic Irish Garden



Ann Marie VanDerZanden

Lisa Orgler

Department of Horticulture

Iowa State University

Overview

- Service-learning project
 - Process
 - Highlights
- Student reflections
- Take aways







Partnership

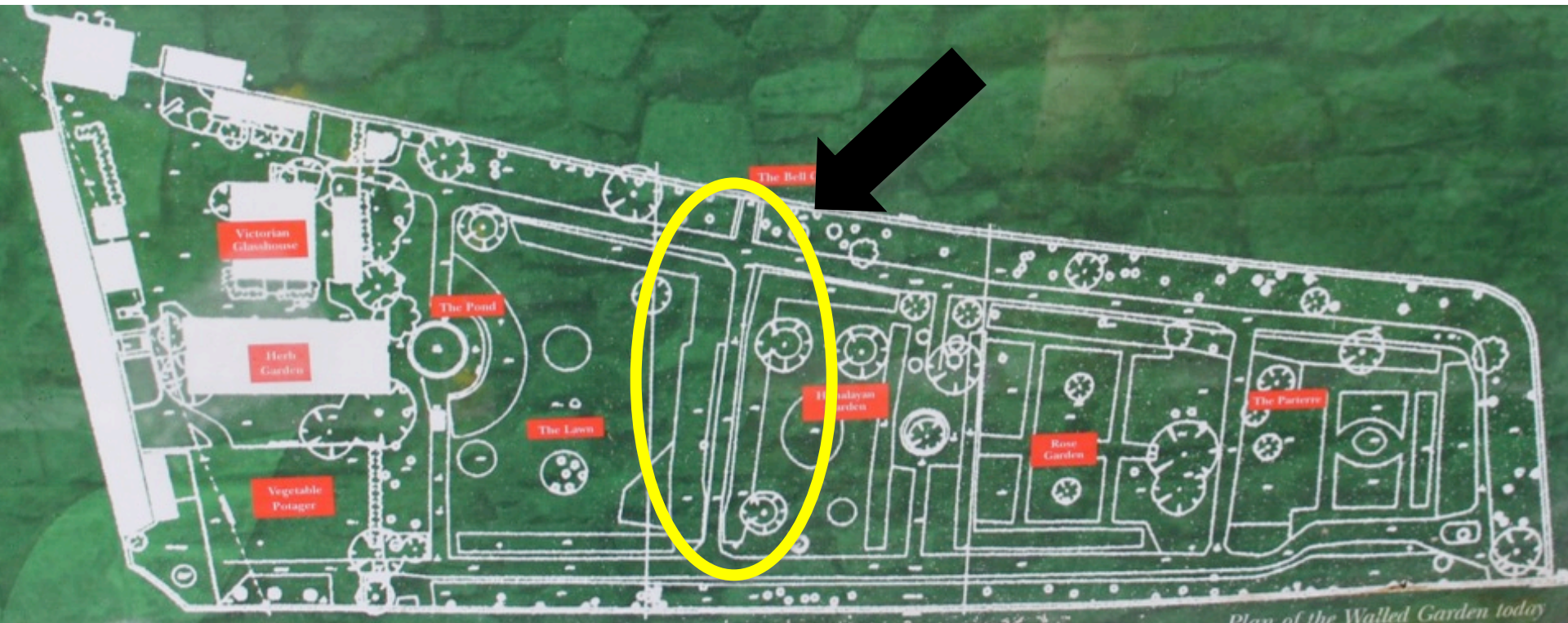
County Director-
Maurice Stenson

Belvedere Head of Horticulture-
John Smyth
Angela Slevin



Parameters

- 2-day installation project
- Peacock Border (Victorian style perennial border)



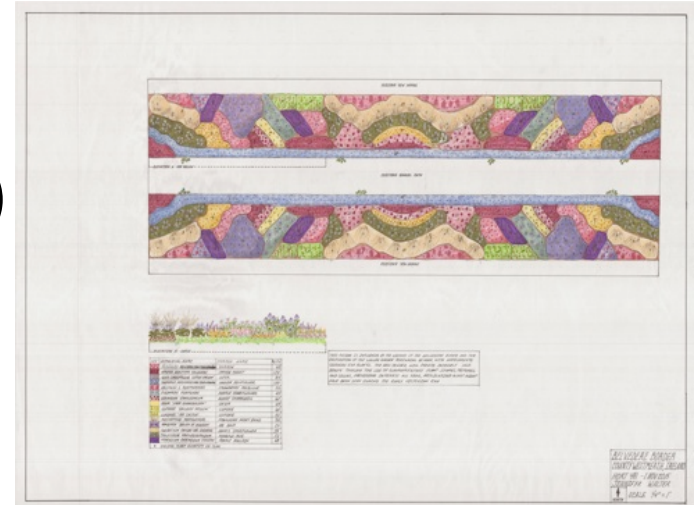
Planning

- Design
- Install process
- In-country needs



Planned Process

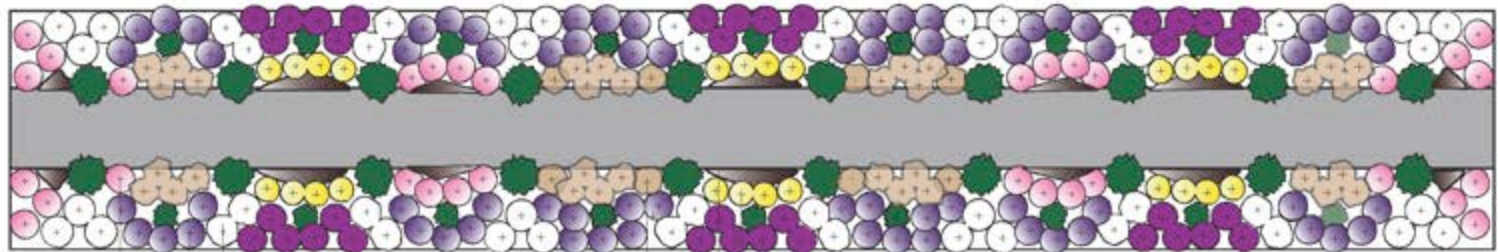
- Fall 2015
 - Hort 481 students design border options
 - Belvedere collaborators select design
- Spring Semester 2016
 - finalize the design- a few tweaks
 - select plants and source vendor(s)
 - finalize installation process
 - determine project needs



Project Reality

Spring 2016

- Change in Head of Horticulture (February)
- Yew hedge not removed
(to make border 12' wide vs. 6' wide)
- Result: student designs wouldn't work
- Complete re-design based on
 - Changed dimensions
 - Plants in the poly-house (some mystery plants!)



THALICTRUM 'ELIN'
 FOXGLOVE (WHITE)
 PHLOX (MIXED PINK)
 GERANIUM (MIXED PURPLE/PINK)

GOLDSTURM BLACKEYED SUSAN
 BLACK MONDO GRASS
 ORANGE NEW ZEALAND SEDGE

FOXGLOVE



GERANIUM



BLACK MONDO GRASS



THALICTRUM 'ELIN'



GOLDSTURM
BLACKEYED SUSAN



PHLOX



ORANGE NEW ZEALAND
SEDE

BELVEDERE GARDEN
PEACOCK PERENNIAL BORDER
COUNTY WESTMEATH, IRELAND
APRIL 21, 2016

DESIGNER:
 ANN MARIE VANDERZANDEN
 IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
 AMES, IOWA
 SCALE: 1:10 (1"=10')

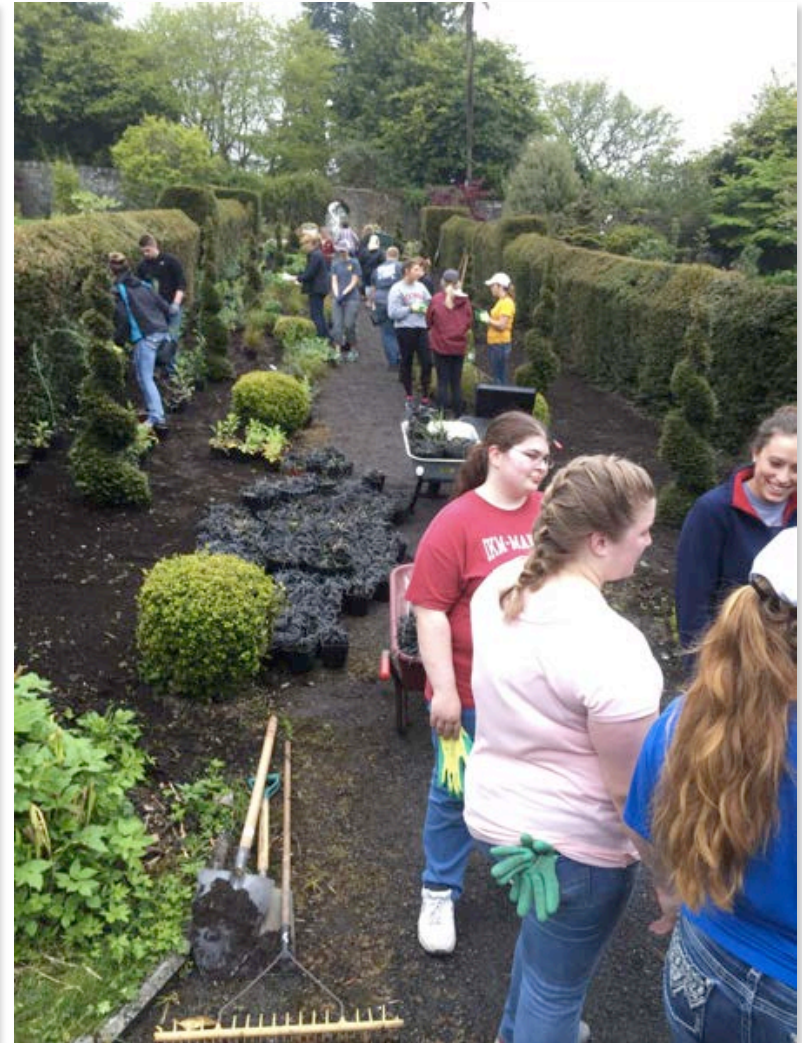


Project Reality continued...

At Belvedere

- Design on the fly!





Emma and Marcus: A quick plant installation tutorial



Iowa visitors on planting scheme at Belvedere

TWENTY horticulture and agriculture students from America had a day of fun as well as work at Belvedere House and Gardens last Wednesday.

The students were working along the peacock borders in the Walled Garden at Belvedere, planting flowers and bushes.

Ann Marie VanDerZanden, a professor of horticulture at Iowa State University, explained: "I came here as part of a three-month visit, as I wanted to learn about the garden

"We travel every year to different places but this is our first time to come here."

Most of the plants used were grown last autumn by students of the FETAC Level 5 Horticulture course at Belvedere, who graduated on May 6.

Ann Marie and her students started early on Wednesday to try to get all of the planting finished in one day so that they could enjoy walking around the grounds the day after.

Ann Marie designed the new borders before she and the students left for the tour.

"We made an initial plan back in Iowa but had to make some



Ann Marie VanDerZanden, Angela Slevin and Lisa Orgler working in the gardens at Belvedere House last Wednesday.

changes because of spacing," she said.

The group tried to use as much of what was already there as possible, only ordering a few extra plants to help complete the look of the borders.

"About 90% of the material was here and we worked with Angela (Slevin) to get the other plants needed and ordered a grant to help pay for the plants,"

said Ann Marie.

The Belvedere trip took two years to organise and is the seventh one Ann Marie has taken with her classes - as well as the second one to Ireland.

After leaving Belvedere the group were going to visit The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark as well as other attractions before going back to Iowa.



The group from Iowa worked hard to make the peacock borders at Belvedere look beautiful.



Grace Parsley, Carolyn Opperman, Michaela O'Grady, Abby VonHandorf, Katie Schrodt and Bailey Kirchhoff were among the group visiting from the United States.

Newspaper article in *Westmeath Examiner*, Mullingar, County Westmeath, Ireland
May 2016



May 12, 2016



August 12, 2016

Student Reflections



“(As I typed this sentence...I got chills as I reflected for a moment)

The garden we planted as a group was great. You really form a bond between individuals when you work together and pulling that piece of work together was such a great feeling.”





“Coming together not only as friends, but also working together was a new experience for me. I was able to teach those who have never planted before, and at the same time I was able to learn about new plants and design skills from other students.”

“My favorite part about visiting the gardens [in Ireland] was hearing my horticulturally-inclined peers get excited and show passion about what they were learning. As a student, it was reassuring to see things we learned in the classroom truly being applied!”





“What a great feeling it is to be a part of something like that, knowing that people from around the world are going to see this garden that some college kids from Iowa planted!”

3 Key Themes from Reflections

- Increases in horticulture knowledge
- Increase in self-confidence
- Increase in cultural awareness

Faculty Take Aways

- Flexibility

