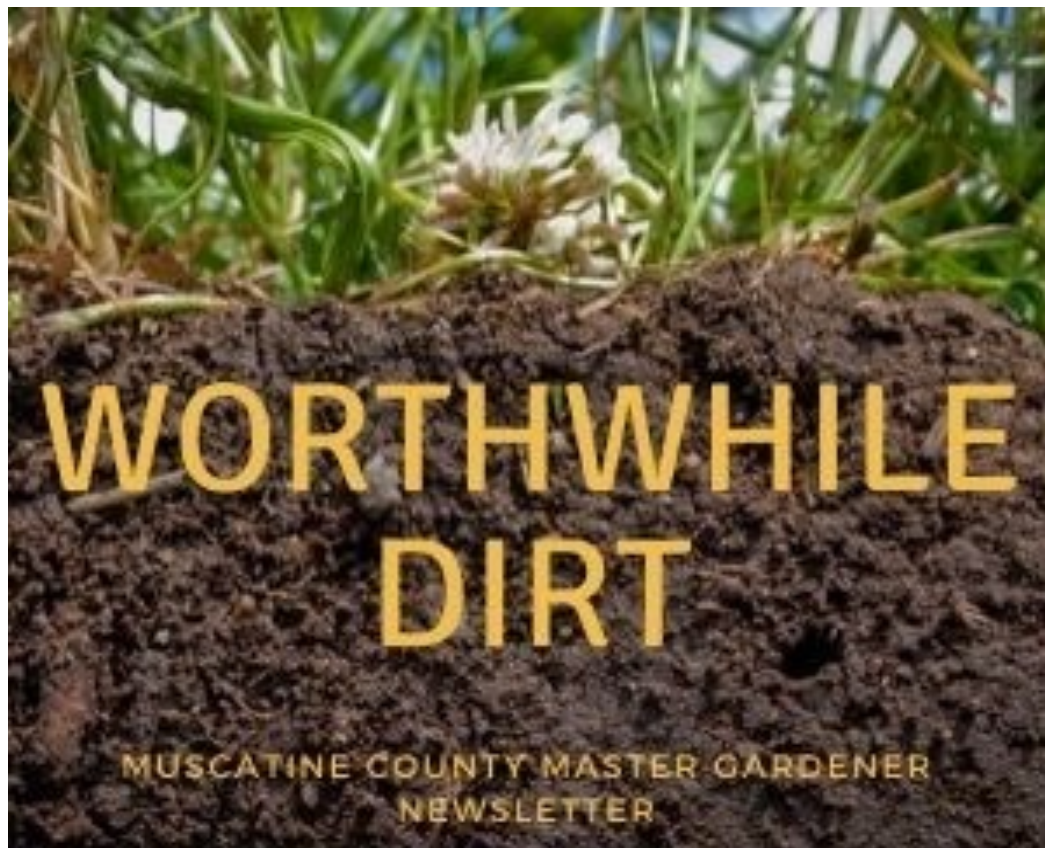


**NOVEMBER  
2020**

**Muscatine  
County**



# WORTHWHILE DIRT

November's Newsletter is short and sweet.

Everyone have a great month and be thankful for some great weather this month so far!

# News from Education Coordinator



## Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

[Horticulture and Home Pest News](#) Check here for info about fall chores, spiders, growing amaryllis and so much more.

## University of Illinois Extension Online Classes

**Everyday Environment Webinar Vermi-composting** November 12, 1:00 pm

Vermi-composting is one of the easiest ways to compost at home. It is odorless, easy, and makes winter composting so much more fun! Join Peggy Doty for one of her favorite topics and personal activities she utilizes at home and at work. [Register here](#)

**History of Forest Pest Outbreaks: Four Seasons Gardening Webinar** November 17, 1:30 pm

North America has a history of exotic pests that extirpate individual tree species. Emerald Ash Borer serves as our modern example. Join IL Extension Horticulture educator Ryan Pankau as he examines past outbreaks on our continent to compare what we have learned historically with the current pests threatening our native trees. [Register here](#)

**Everyday Environment Webinar All-About Squirrels** December 10, 1:00 pm

This webinar will focus on the ever present urban gymnasts that live up in the trees. Join Abigail Garofalo as she delves into the ecology and life of squirrels so that we can understand these amazing creatures. [Register here](#)

## Linn County Master Gardeners are offering *Tuesday Talks at Indian Creek Nature Center*

A Linn County Master Gardener will do a Zoom video conference making a presentation and answering questions, 6:30-7:30 pm.

November 10: **Bees, Birds & Bats – Oh, My!**

November 17: **Lessons from an Urban Chicken Farmer**

December 1: **Public Gardens of Iowa**

December 8: **Gardening Folklore**

December 15: **Gardening with Children**

Go to Indian Creek's Calendar of [events to register](#) for the talk. There is a minimal fee of \$5 to cover the cost of technology and staff time.

**THANK YOU**  
**Carolyn Lemaster**

# News from the Chair

By Mary Wildermuth, Master Gardener Chair

Dear Muscatine County Master Gardeners:

Here, we are at November!!

We had a delightful tour of the Muscatine Arboretum led by Charles Rickey in mid-October as the leaves were about to be at their best!! We had about 25 Master Gardeners and guests walk through the Arboretum fascinated by Charles's depth of knowledge and interest.

We had hoped to offer another opportunity to get together here in November but have decided to postpone our Master Gardener Movie Night at the Palms until Covid numbers are lower!! Ed Moreno did the leg work and lined up the venue. Details being a \$300 charge to show a movie of our choice and interest. We were able to locate **Seeds the Diversity of Wonder**. Seeds won the 2019 Environmental Film Festival award and is owned by Extension Staff here in Muscatine. If you have an idea of a good movie best seen on a large screen please let us know. We will try to schedule something "fun" again in January or February. This would be a "bring your friend event" with 30 in attendance. We could charge \$5 per person and have the Master Gardener account pick up the other \$150 and we could cover the charge.

We will be cancelling the earlier scheduled November 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting and the December Board Meeting. We will plan for our annual meeting after the Covid numbers improve in 2021. Date to be determined.

"Despite modern-age turmoil—and perhaps, even more so, because of it—gathering together in grateful appreciation for a Thanksgiving celebration with friends and family is a deeply meaningful and comforting annual ritual to most Americans. The need to connect with loved ones and to express our gratitude is at the heart of all this feasting, prayerful thanks, recreation, and nostalgia for a simpler time. And somewhere in the bustling activity of every November's Thanksgiving is the abiding National memory of a moment in Plymouth, nearly 400 years ago, when two distinct cultures, on the brink of profound and irrevocable change, shared an autumn feast." (and this was 400 years ago not 2020!!)

Here's hoping that you and yours have a safe Covid free Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Travel safely, wear a mask, wash your hands and socially distance... zoom when you can. Someday soon, we will all be able to get back together.

Mary Wildermuth, Chair

PS Please find attached a [LINK HERE](#) on a Thanksgiving History that Mary put together

## Muscatine County Extension Office

1601 Plaza Place

Muscatine, IA 52761

563-263-5701 or 800-992-0894

Iowa State University Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. Iowa State University and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

### Current Emails and Addresses

As a reminder – keep both the Extension Office current on any changes of e-mail addresses, phone numbers, or mailing addresses. These need to be current to keep you — our members — informed.

## 2020 Muscatine County Master Gardener Board

### Board Members

Mary Wildermuth, Chair (2021)\*

Rachel Horner Brackett, Vice Chair (2020)\*

Heather Harroun, Sec/Treas(2020)

Kathy Haltmeyer(2020)

Ron Jensen (2021)

Carolyn Lemaster(2021)\*

Ed Moreno (2020)

Maryrose Peterschmidt(2020)

Mary Danner (Past Chair)

Angela Weber (Intern)

( )Year term expires as of Dec. 31

\* Going off Board Dec 31, 2020 or 2021 but eligible for re-election



### Editorial Comments:

I DO ENJOY PUTTING THE NEWSLETTER TOGETHER, BUT PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP IF SOMETHING IS WRONG WITHIN IT, INSTEAD OF HEARING ABOUT IT A MONTH LATER, AS I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT. THANK YOU!  
GRETCHEN NOLLMAN—  
nollmanag@gmail.com

NEWS  
YOU CAN  
USE