

August 2019

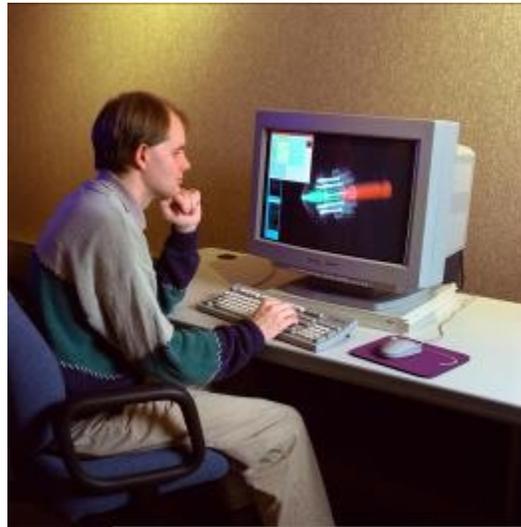
Muscatine County



**WORTHWHILE
DIRT**

Master Gardeners Training Muscatine County Fall 2019

We look forward to new interns receiving training in this new interactive flipped classroom format — and existing Master Gardeners are invited to join in any or all of the training sessions:



- Aug 19 — Welcome Session (come meet/greet interns)
 - Aug 24 — Vegetables & Herbs; Weed Science; Animal Ecology
 - Sept 7 — Herbaceous Ornamentals; Plant Pathology; Soil
 - Sept 21 — Sustainable Landscape Design; Integrated Pest Management; Pesticides; Composting
 - Oct 5 — Turf Grass; Fruit Cultures; Landscape Trees and Herbs
 - Oct 19 — On ISU Campus — Plant Pathology; Entomology; Botany
 - Nov 2 — Plant Propagation; House Plants + Lunch potluck
- (See pages 4 & 18 for more details)

Upcoming Meeting & Event Highlights

Coordinated by Jane Hodge, Master Gardener

New Events

August 1 Applications due for new Master Gardener Training!
(See page 4)

August 10 Zoo Garden Coffee at 10am at the **LIBRARY** (see page 7)

September 10 General Meeting and Garden Tour at 6:00pm at the home of Ed Moreno, 1330 100 Street, West Liberty. Matt McAndrew will be our guest speaker and his topic will be watershed protection and water quality.

November 12 General Meeting at 6:30pm at ISU Extension – Melissa Baker, Horticulturalist for Muscatine Parks and Recreation Department, will be presented about the hanging baskets she has planted and maintained throughout Muscatine.

Summer Webcast Series — *Final Event — Free and open to the public — bring a friend!*

Tuesday, August 13 — 6:30-7:30 P.M. Ecology Plus Diversity. Explore how to create plant communities that mimic nature with Grant Thompson, assistant professor of horticulture at ISU.

Appreciation Abounds!

- **Fair Grounds:** This past year a group of dedicated Master Gardeners have planted 141 trees throughout the Muscatine County Fairgrounds. That is impressive! They have also tended the floral hall, stage area, and office gardens. If you joined Bill Koellner and Gretchen Nollman as they lead the tour on July 9 you would agree they have given many hours of love to the fairgrounds. As with most projects, it takes many people to make the grounds their best, so thank you to Bill and Jan Koellner, Ron and Rhonda Jenson, and Lynn and Emma Pruitt, too.
- **Zoo Garden:** July's 'Saturday in the Gardens' was so delightfully special. Maryrose and the Zoo Garden crew spent extra hours of care to present them to the lady who inspired Maryrose and Rich Kellor to design the 10 gardens. Dr. Cynthia Haynes was our guest of honor and our speaker for the morning. She brought samples of many plants named after animals: elephant ears, tiger sumac, and toad lily to name a few. A BIG thank you to all the volunteers.
- **Garden Walk:** Passionate clearly describes Heather Harroun's affection for daylilies. She collects them extensively. We are proud and grateful she shared them with us Saturday, July 13. All her daylilies were at their peak which made picking a favorite rather difficult. Thanks so much, Heather.



Scheduled Events from Area Agencies

Note: These events may be of interest to Master Gardeners
(Check Sponsor's website for updates, registration, etc)

August 3: Explore Prairie's Pollinators at Land of Swamp White Oak — 10am to noon — 1277 245th Street, Conesville (off of G28) — Hosted by The Nature Conservancy in Iowa (see page 5)

August 5: ISU Fruit and Vegetable Field Day — 2-6pm — ISU Horticulture Research Station located at 55519 170th St., Ames — Hosted by ISU Extension (see page 6)

August 9: Pollinator Tour/Wendt Farm Tour—1-4 pm @ Tipton NRCS Office: 205 West South Street, Suite 2, Tipton, IA — Hosted by Cedar and Muscatine County Soil and Water Conservation Districts

August 17: Cone Marsh Field Trip — 7am-noon — Sponsored by QC Audubon Society — see www.quadcityaudubon.org for details

August 22: Demonstration Garden Field Day — 6:30pm — Horticulture Research Station, located at 55519 170th St., Ames — Hosted by ISU Extension

September 7: Blackhawk State Park Field Trip — 8am-noon — Sponsored by QC Audubon Society — www.quadcityaudubon.org for details

September 12-13: Gardening School — Iowa Arboretum, 1875 Peach Avenue, Madrid, Iowa — Sponsored by Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa (see pages 19-20)

September 22: 3rd Annual Swamp Stomp — 1-6pm — Ardon Creek Winery — Hosted by The Nature Conservancy in Iowa (see page 8)

September 28: Growing Along the River — Focus on Fall — 8am-4pm Saturday

A special invitation to fellow gardeners and outdoor enthusiasts

Adler Auditorium, Genesis Heart Institute, 1236 E Rusholme Street, Davenport, Iowa

The Scott County Master Gardeners invite you to spend "A Day with Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy", the nationally recognized authors of **The Living Landscape**. This exclusive event will inspire you to continue to provide an easily manageable garden space for all living creatures, from birds and bees to mammals. Your garden will thrive and provide enjoyment for you and your family all year round.

The Growing Along the River -- Focus on Fall Gardening Conference is a great resource to all gardeners, new and experienced. For further information call 563-359-7577. Register at www.eicc.edu/focusonfall . The \$45 registration fee includes lunch.

Last change to enroll in Master Gardener Training for 2019

Master Gardeners are enthusiastic and willing to learn. Prior gardening experience is not required.

Volunteer in the Garden



Details

- ▶ 25 locations across Iowa
- ▶ 40 hours of training taught by Iowa State University educators and local experts
- ▶ One, all-day workshop, October 19 at Iowa State University, Ames

Master Gardener Training

\$195 fee for 40-hour training course. Participants must provide 40 volunteer hours upon completion of the course. To maintain active status Master Gardeners must complete 10 hours of continuing education and 20 volunteer hours each year.

www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener

Applications are due August 1, 2019

Contact your ISU Extension and Outreach county office:

Muscatine County ISU Extension and Outreach

Contact: Krista Regennitter, KristaR@iastate.edu, 563-263-5701

Dates:

Kick-Off August 19, 6-7:30 PM

Saturday's, 9 AM - 1 PM: 8/24, 9/7, 9/21, 10/5, 11/2

Class at Iowa State University: 10/19

Locations will vary based on topic. Schedule will be provided upon registration.

Apply Online: <http://bit.ly/2GBpQFW>



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MG2017 March 2019



Explore the Prairie's Pollinators

Join Us!

Come explore the **prairie's pollinators** with us!
Spend the morning **hiking** through the prairie.
We'll be **netting** insects and practicing pollinator and
prairie plant **identification!**

Saturday, August 3
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Driving directions to the Land of the Swamp White Oak Preserve
Abbott Access: From U.S. 61, turn west on Hershey Ave., follow as it becomes G28. Go 12.5 miles. Along the way, you'll cross three bridges. Shortly after the third bridge, there will be a grassy two-track entrance on the left.



This is a **kid friendly** event.
Wear long pants, sturdy, close toed shoes or hiking boots, bring along a water bottle and a **sense of adventure!**

Questions?

Contact **Hannah Howard**
at (319) 726-3041 or
hannah.howard@tnc.org



nature.org/iowa

2019 Iowa State University Fruit and Vegetable Field Day

Monday, August 5

Many of you have already registered but a gentle reminder that the 2019 Iowa State University Fruit and Vegetable Field Day is scheduled for 5 August, 2019 (Monday, 2-6pm). If you have not yet registered please do so ASAP. Supper is included. Registration is free but required to get an accurate head count for supper. Here is the link to register:

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/vegetablelab/2019-fruit-and-vegetable-field-day>

Many Thanks

Ajay Nair, PhD

Associate Professor and Extension Vegetable Specialist

SCHEDULE:

2pm – Welcome (Jeff Iles)

2:10pm – Updates from PFI, IFVGA, SARE, PIDC, Food Safety team, and Local Foods (Christa Hartsook, Liz Kolbe, Laura Iles, Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca, Joe Hannan, and team)

2:40pm – Demonstration of rain simulator and effect of cover crops on soil erosion (Ajay Nair, Moriah Bilenky, and Kristine Lang)

3:00pm – High tunnel tomatoes (Brandon Carpenter)

3:15pm – High tunnel peach production (Marcus Jansen and Diana Cochran)

3:30pm – High tunnel specialty melon project (Moriah Bilenky and Henric Krouse)

3:45pm – Apple cultivars and expansion (Nick Howell and Brandon Carpenter)

4:00pm – Load the people mover

4:15pm - Summer cover crop research (Moriah Bilenky)

4:40pm - Bee research and pollination (Randall Cass)

5:00pm – Pepper biodegradable plastic mulch study (Ajay Nair, Moriah Bilenky, and Kristine Lang)

5:15pm - Onion production (Student project)

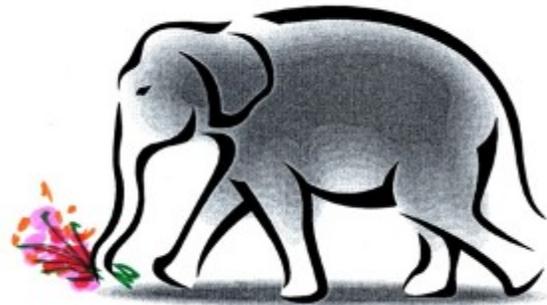
5:30pm – Protek net in muskmelon and winter squash production (Kephias Mphande)

5:45pm – Hop production (Ashly Senske and Diana Cochran)

6:00pm – Supper and future research discussion

Zoo Garden Coffee — August 10

Second Saturday
Coffee at the Zoo
has been **MOVED**



to the

MUSSER PUBLIC LIBRARY

408 E. 2nd St. Room 301

August 10, 2019 10:00 AM

Garden Rock Painting

with Julie Lear

Learn painting techniques by decorating several "Friendship Rocks." Then take your skills to the next level at home.

All materials, coffee and sweets will be provided. (Bring your own paints and brushes if you prefer.) Wear old clothes and bring a friend.

Free and open to the public.



save the date

It's time to celebrate nature at the 3rd Annual

SWAMP STOMP



Sunday, September 22
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ardon Creek Vineyard and Winery
2391 Independence Avenue
Letts, IA 52754

Join The Nature Conservancy for a celebration of nature at

Land of the Swamp White Oak!

Free activities include: live music, games, face painting, a guided hiking tour, wildlife demonstration, wine tasting and more. There is something for everyone to enjoy!

Youth celebrating nature at Swamp Stomp 2018 © Maggie Keller/TNC

News from the Chair

By Mary Danner
Master Gardener



July was an embattled month in our garden. We are battling Japanese beetles, though not as bad as last year, but they are out there destroying my roses. I thought the rains would never stop but now I wish would return as

watering everyday is a challenge. There are one inch cracks in our yard and the grass is not growing, which is expected since our northern grasses usually go dormant in August. But our biggest challenge this month has been fighting an infestation of Raccoons!

Raccoons starting ravaging our yard, flower pots, vegetable garden, and potting shed about the time the lawn and neighboring fields grew dry. Our guess is they could not dig in the fields to find any grubs or other food source as easily as dig in my flower yard and garden that had been freshly worked up, watered and mulched. I had some bedding plants that I had replanted five times. Many eventually gave up and died, it was too stressful.

The raccoons really gave us a run for our money. I have extra stored patio planters with last year's potting soil in them; those were dumped and spilled out multiple times. The extra bags of mulch and potting soil-torn into and dumped out onto the shed floor. Plus they knock things over and leave their excrement behind. The best defense is a good offence, right? I removed everything I

thought they would be attracted to: Cat food, extra potting soil, pots with leftover soil, mulch, and the cat's water bowl. (The raccoons would 'wash' their little dirty paws in the water every night!)

We have humanely trapped six raccoons and one opossum in the past 3 weeks. Found out they like Marshmallows! If you have any of these issues at your garden, I recommend checking out your state's DNR website for rules on control (In Iowa: <https://www.iowadnr.gov>) or a local licensed animal control service.

Take care and happy gardening. Mary

PS: Please note these upcoming events:

- The final Growing Season webcast is 6:30 on Tuesday, August 13th at the Extension office.
- The Master Gardener Board will meet prior to that at 5:30 pm, also at the Extension office.

PSS: Remember the Iowa State Fair, Aug 8th thru the 18th; there are fabulous gardens on the fair grounds, especially around the Ag Building cared by the Polk Co MGs. It my favorite place to cool down.

Thanks,
Mary



The Discovery Garden at Iowa State Fair

Tree-men-dous Beautification Tour and Presentation at Muscatine County Fair Grounds — July 9



15 people attended this presentation by Gretchen Nollman, and the tour of the Fair Grounds. Some 141 trees have been planted this year and a few replacements are planned.

You can purchase your own memorial tree for \$100. Send the check to Bill Koellner or directly to the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine.

Zoo Garden Activities

By Maryrose Peterschmidt, Master Gardener



The Second Saturday coffee in July at the Zoo Garden gets an A plus. Why, you ask. We had a great speaker in Dr. Cynthia Haynes, Associate Professor of Horticulture at Iowa State. Dr. Haynes gave an interesting presentation on plants with animal names. The weather cooperated. It was warm, but we were in the shade of Sunrise Shelter and had a nice breeze to cool us. We also had good attendance. The Second Saturday Coffee was filmed by the MCC college staff and is now being shown on the local TV channel 9 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



(Continued next page — Zoo Garden Activities)

Zoo Garden Activities (continued)



Please note that the upcoming Second Saturday Coffee in August will be held at the Musser Public Library due to a conflict with a large company picnic in the park that day. So, new location and also starting time is 10:00 am. Try to join us for a class on rock painting by artist Julie Lear.
Maryrose

Garden Tour at Heather Harroun's Home — July 13

Thanks to everyone who braved the heat and came to our open garden Saturday!! It will be blooming heavy for the next week or two if anyone would like to come take a look. Early morning is best for color, but I am not home. Feel free to come look anyway. There is a large bed along the driveway and more beds up near the house. Heather

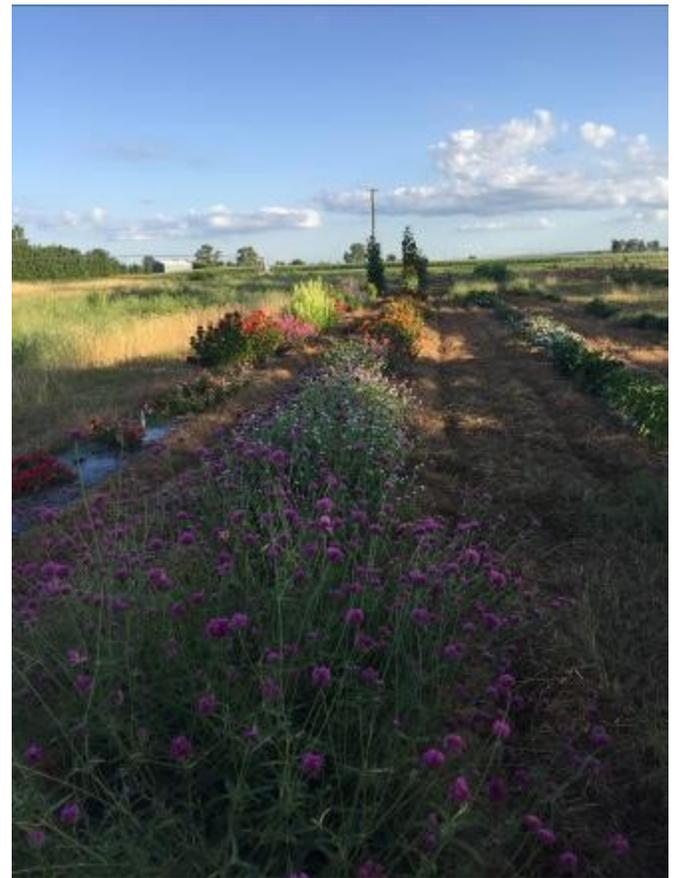


*See more on
page 27*



ISU Research Farm Field Day — July 29

Fruitland, Iowa



Demo plot of flowers used as Cut Flowers



Dr Cindy Haynes shares results of this year's test plot

"The Field Day was well attended. The weather was great. and they gave us white honey dew and cantaloupe to take home."

— Mary Danner



Hy-Vee Main Street Donation Garden



The Hy-Vee Main Street Donation Garden is going strong. Beans and peas are already finished. Cabbage, cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes are ripe or nearly so. Pretty flowers also.

Zion Lutheran Donation Garden

We have started getting tomatoes , cucumbers, and peppers. Someone has picked all of our beans, we got about 10 beans all last week. —Terri Hanson



Muscatine County Extension Photo Contest!

Help us decorate the new Muscatine County Extension Office! You are invited to submit up to three digital pictures to Krista Regennitter at KristaR@iastate.edu<mailto:KristaR@iastate.edu> by August 15, 2019. Pictures do not need to be from the last year. We are looking for photos that highlight Muscatine County Extension and Outreach programming (4-H, Master Gardeners, Master Conservationist, Ag programming, Human Sciences, etc.). Photos will be selected to decorate the Large and Small Meeting Rooms in our new office at 1601 Plaza Place, Muscatine. Contact Krista or Lindsay with questions, 563-263-5701.

Church of Christ Donation Garden



Interns from HNI worked very hard and helped weed and spread mulch



Our tomatoes are looking good and we have harvested a few. We planted several varieties to spread out the harvest over several weeks. Cages supported by steel posts will help hold the plants upright and ease picking.



Harvesting is underway for kale, cabbage, rhubarb, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers and onions. This is our third delivery to the Food Pantry. We have delivered 188 pounds of fresh produce so far.

Muscatine County Master Gardener Training - Fall 2019

Hello Master Gardeners! I wanted to share with you the training outline for this falls MG training - a BIG shout out to Kathy Haltmeyer and Rachel Horner Brackett for all of their work on this! We welcome you to join in on any of these activities; especially the welcome session on August 19! We hope you join us that night to welcome our new Master Gardeners into the program. Kathy will be working on mentors for our new trainees, so if you are interested in that please let her know. Please also put Saturday, November 2nd on your calendar as we plan to host a lunch potluck for the wrap-up and spend some time highlighting our current Master Gardener projects. More info to come!

Please let me know if you have any questions! Krista

DATE	TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
Monday, August 19	6-7:30 PM	Welcome session	Muscatine County Extension Office, 1514 Isett Avenue
Saturday, August 24	9 AM – 1 PM	Vegetables & Herbs Weed Science Animal Ecology	Muscatine Island Research & Demonstration Farm The Nature Conservancy Swamp White Oak
Saturday, September 7	9 AM – 1 PM	Herbaceous Ornamentals Plant Pathology Soils	Lynn & Emma May Pruitt's home, Nichols Saulsbury Recreation Area
Saturday, September 21	9 AM – 1 PM	Sustainable Landscape Design Integrated Pest Management Pesticides Composting	Zoo Garden at Weed Park Muscatine Pollinator Park
Saturday, October 5	9 AM – 1 PM	Turf Grass Fruit Cultures Landscape Trees & Shrubs	Geneva Golf & Country Club Muscatine Arboretum Discover Park
Saturday, October 19	9:30 AM – 4 PM	Class on Campus: Plant Pathology Entomology Botany	Iowa State University. Current Master Gardeners interested in attending must register through Iowa Master Gardeners and pay the registration fee.
Saturday, November 2	9 AM – 1 PM	Plant Propagation House Plants	Muscatine High School Green house Muscatine County Extension Office, 1601 Plaza Place

Gardening Study School

Iowa Arboretum, Madrid, Iowa

Fellow Master Gardeners,

The Sept. 12-13, 2019, Gardening School, previously known as Gardening Study School, has been approved by National Garden Clubs, Inc. It will be at the Iowa Arboretum, Hughes Education Center, rural Madrid, IA.

Registrations will be accepted until noon, Sept. 7. In Iowa, the Gardening School is sponsored by Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa.

Master Gardeners can earn 10 hours educational credit by completing this course. I have attached the agenda and registration form.

You can see the agenda on 2 websites. They are Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa website. <http://www.gardenclubsofiowa.org/>. Then, click on "Sept. 12-13 Gardening School at Madrid". You also can access the Gardening School agenda on the Iowa Arboretum website. <https://iowaarboretum.org/calendar/>.

You may register now and I hope you register early. Of course, I realize some do need to wait to closer to the class dates, but if you do not, please register now. No matter when you register, I do not cash the checks until a few days before the School. Refunds offered until Sept7.

Looking forward to seeing you Sept. 12-13, 2019, at the Iowa Arboretum.

Questions? Feel free to email me with the Subject line "Question about April Gardening School".

AdaMae Lewis

State Chair of Gardening School

Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa

(SE Iowa)

See next page for the Agenda and Registration Form

National Garden Clubs, Inc., GARDENING SCHOOL, Course 2 – Series 13

Sponsored by Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa

IOWA ARBORETUM, 1875 PEACH AVENUE, in RURAL MADRID, IOWA

HUGHES EDUCATION CENTER

<http://iowaarboretum.org/> for directions

SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2019

Open to the Public

September 12, 2019 (Thursday)

8:15 A.M.	COFFEE/TEA and REGISTRATION	
8:30 – 10:30	*GROWING VEGETABLES	2.0 hrs
	Ajay Nair, PhD, Associate Professor & Vegetable Extension Specialist, ISU	
10:30 – 10:45	BREAK	
11:15 – 12:15	RECENT BEHAVIOR & TRENDS IN PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURES ACROSS IOWA	1.0 hr
	Justin Glison, State Climatologist of Iowa	
12:15 – 12:45 P.M.	LUNCH (Please bring sack lunch)	
12:45 – 2:15	TECHNIQUES FOR GROWING LAWNS/ALTERNATIVES	1.5 hrs
	AJ Lindsey, Horticulture-Turfgrass Graduate Student, ISU	
2:30 – 4:00	*GROWING FRUIT	1.5 hrs
	Diana Cochran, PhD, Assistant Professor, Horticulture, ISU	

September 13, 2019 (Friday)

8:15 A.M.	COFFEE/TEA	
8:30 – 11:00	*PLANT DISEASES & GARDEN PESTS,	2.5 hr
	Part of class outdoors, bring examples of plant disease and insects.	
	Laura Iles, PhD. Co-Director North Central IPM Center and Director ISU Plant & Insect Diagnostic Clinic	
	Donald Lewis, PhD. Professor and Extension Entomologist, ISU, Dept. of Entomology	
11:00-11:15	BREAK	
11:15 A.M. – 12:45 PM	IRRIGATION & WATER	1.5
	Moriah Bilenky, Horticulture Graduate Student, ISU	
12:15-12:45	LUNCH (Please bring sack lunch if you are going to test.)	
12:45-3:345	EXAM	
	*TESTED TOPIC, ALL EXAMS OPEN BOOK.	

RECOMMENDED READING: THE NATIONAL GARDENER magazine 1-800-550-6007.

Master Gardeners may be awarded 1 hour CEU for each 1 hour class time. The two days will yield 10 hr.

To register for the FGCI Registration – Gardening School Course 2, Series 13, Sept. 12-13, 2019, Iowa Arboretum, 1875 Peach Avenue, Madrid, IA. Please complete the form below
REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL noon Sept. 7, 2019, NO REFUNDS AFTER Sept. 7, 2019.
WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS WELCOME, BUT NO HANDOUTS AVAILABLE

NAME (Only 1 name per form) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

NEW _____ LAST COURSE ATTENDED _____

NAME OF FGC(if a member) _____ Master Gardener Y/N _____

I do ___ do not ___ want a handout for this course.

Unless checked, we may use your name, address, telephone and e-mail above to contact you with National Garden Clubs, Inc. information, including future Gardening Schools. _____

Class \$55 _____ Class + test \$60 _____ Class + refresh _____ \$60. Refreshing is available only to those who are already Gardening Consultants.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **GARDENING SCHOOL** and mail to AdaMae Lewis, 122 N Russell Avenue, Ames, IA 50010, Phone 515-290-3169, E-mail adamaelewis@gmail.com

Zoo Garden Photos — July 2019

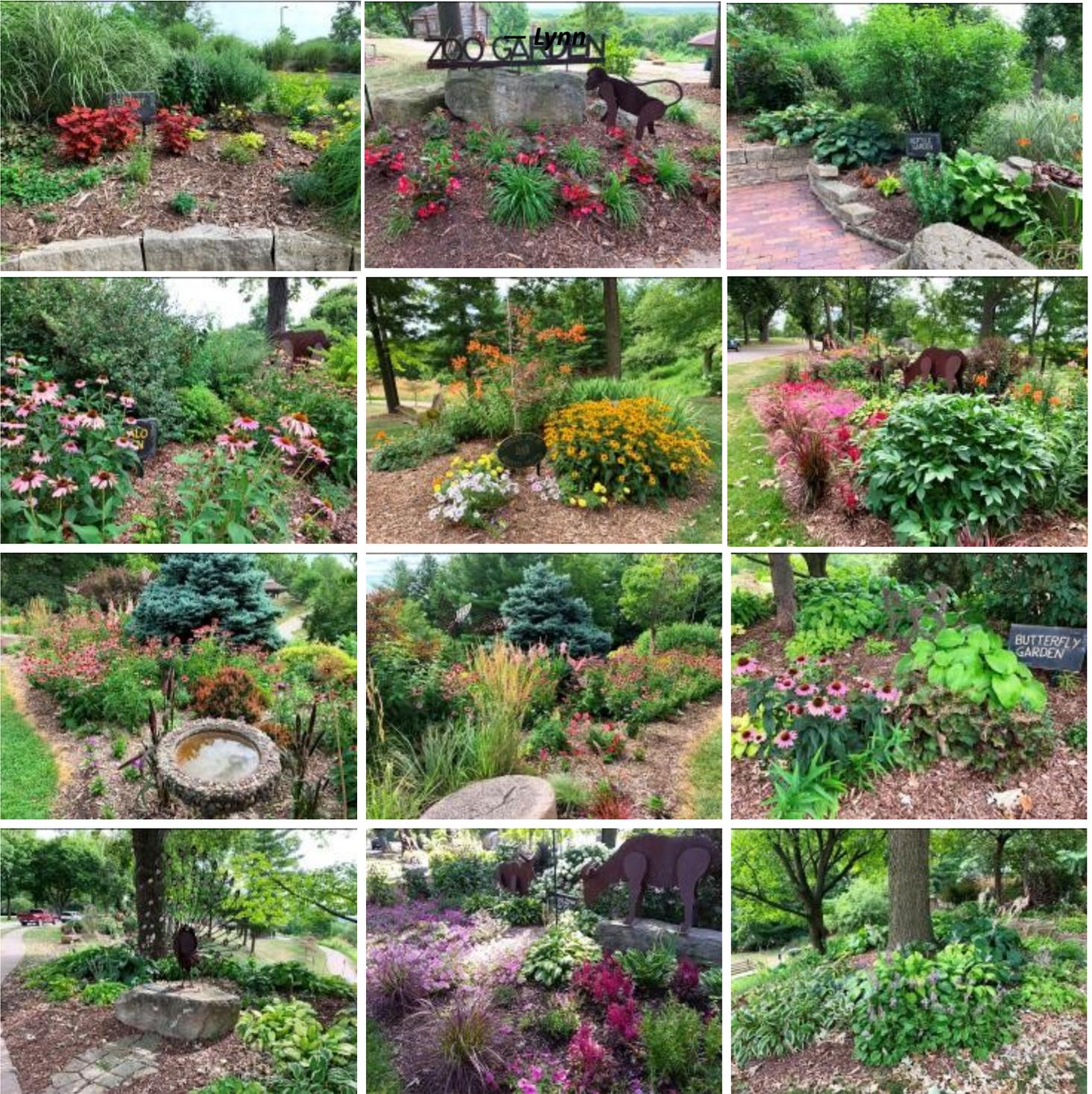


*The summer heat
didn't bother these
plants at Zoo Gar-
den.*

Maryrose



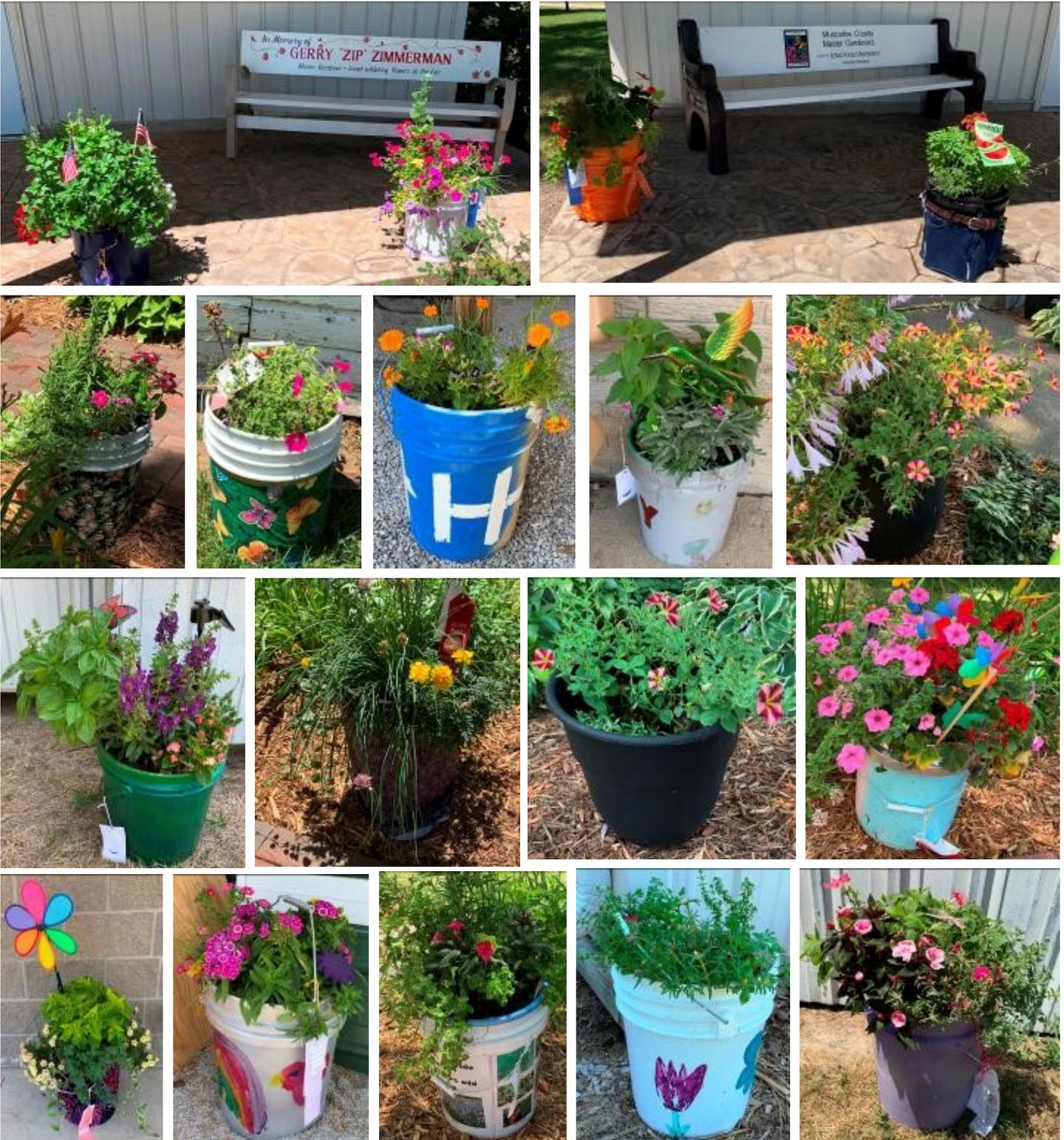
More Zoo Garden Photos — July 30, 2019



The Zoo Garden at Weed Park is a real treasure for the citizens of Muscatine and surrounding community. Several Master Gardeners and members of the Muscatine Garden Club have spent many hours keeping the gardens well tended and beautiful. A special thanks to Maryrose Peterschmidt and her fellow gardeners for their vision and hard work!

— sorry, I couldn't help myself; I took these photos and just had to display them — Lynn P

Muscatine County Fair Bucket Brigade



Buckets — Buckets — Buckets!

Buckets of a wide variety of herbs and flowers!

A special thanks to Barb Woods and Linda Wells for orchestrating another successful event!

More Fair Bucket Brigade Buckets



Buckets — We had 41 buckets. That is a great number. Lee Phillips won adults, Linda Wells won Master Gardeners, Cathy Chalupa won 1st time MG, Avery Schroeder won the older youth, Bo Wertzberger won the younger youth and Best of Show. —Barb & Linda

Muscatine County Fair Flowers, Fruits and Vegetables



Thanks to those friendly horticulture building hosts at the county fair! You all made everyone feel welcome and helped the total gardening spirit shine through! Those assisting were Lani Willis, Kay Walter, Carol Gundrum, Twyla Woodward, Joyce Gauger, Ron Jensen, Sara Carroll, Bill and Jan Koellner. — Jan K



Muscatine County Fair Grounds



The Muscatine County Fair Grounds in West Liberty has made tremendous improvements to their facilities over the past 5 years, and more is planned. Note the Donor and Veterans Plazas. And you can have your own personalized tree!

Member Photos

Here are a couple more photos of Heather Harroun's beautiful gardens



Member Photos

July offers special opportunities for garden photos at the Pruitt's



6 Ways to help monarchs in your own backyard

(from Iowa DNR News Release 7-5-2019)

One of the most recognized pollinators, monarchs travel more than 3,000 miles each year to come visit Iowa for the summer. With declining numbers over the last decade, here are some ways you can help these beautiful orange and black butterflies:

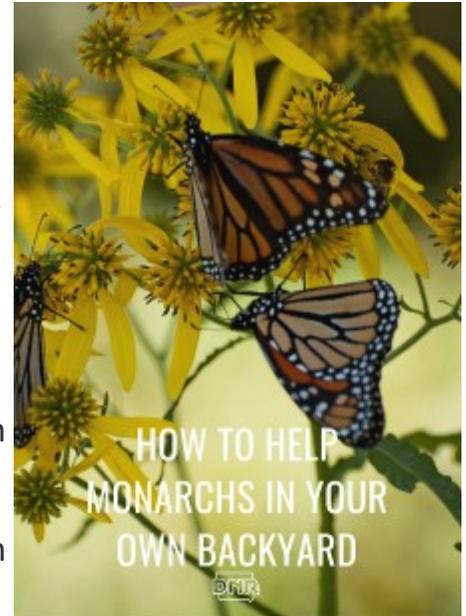
Create a pollinator garden

Gardens help not only monarchs, but other butterflies and pollinators, like bees. Whether your garden will take up a few square feet or a few acres, monarchs benefit from any amount of help.

When deciding where to put your butterfly sanctuary, look for a sunny spot that has protection from the wind. You should also check your soil to make sure you choose plants that can thrive in the space.

Monarchs must have milkweed to survive. They lay their eggs on the plant and it's the only plant that the caterpillars eat to grow. Have at least one type of milkweed in your garden, along with at least three different plants in bloom at all times from early spring to late fall, so something is always available for monarchs and other pollinators.

Choose native plants, trees and shrubs. These plants are adapted to Iowa's environment and require less maintenance and can better tolerate Iowa's unpredictable summer weather.



From DNR News Release



Play it safe

Pesticides can be harmful to many kinds of wildlife, including monarchs. Avoid using chemicals as much as possible — the [Good Neighbor](#) initiative suggests not spraying to be a better neighbor. If it's necessary to use pesticides, follow the instructions exactly and in as targeted a fashion as possible. Keep this in mind when choosing plants, as well. Avoid plants that have insecticides incorporated in the plant material.

Keep it natural

Even though many people prefer a well-groomed yard,

(continued next page POLLINATORS)

← *(from Milkweed Matters' Facebook post)*

(continued from previous page POLLINATORS)

perfectly manicured lawns tend to be close to a biological desert. To help butterflies and other wildlife, let your yard get a little weedy. Violets, dandelions and clover benefit pollinators. If you're a rural land owner, try to avoid mowing your ditch to allow wildflowers and milkweed to flourish.

If you're okay with some mess, create a small prairie patch in your yard. You can add edging to create a distinct area, while keeping things neatly mowed around the patch. If you're not able to plant a prairie, don't worry — monarchs also appreciate formally planted gardens.

Add to the oasis

Aside from planting, you can help monarchs by providing resting spots. These insects enjoy basking in the sun, so adding flat rocks in a sunny spot creates the perfect basking spot. Make your bird bath pollinator friendly by creating a puddling area. Add gravel to create a shallow spot for monarchs and bees to rest, soak up sunlight and get some water without drowning.

Start a trend

When starting your butterfly garden journey, check out what's already in your neighborhood and do your best to complement it. If your monarch sanctuary will be the first in your area, talk to your neighbors about creating their own. Becoming an ambassador and spreading the word about helping monarchs is a great way to help. You can even register your garden with [Plant.Grow.Fly.](https://www.plantgrowfly.com/) through the Blank Park Zoo.



From Dave Cooney's Facebook Post — on RAGBRAI distributing milkweed seedballs at designated spots along the route



Become a citizen scientist

If you're not a gardener, or if you'd like another way to help monarchs, become a citizen scientist. You can order wing tags from [Monarch Watch](https://www.monarchwatch.org/) and tag the butterflies to help scientists track the monarch migration. If you're interested in going out in the field, you can take part in the [Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program](https://www.monarchwatch.org/monarch-monitoring-program). This program collects data used to help conservation efforts for monarchs.

←(from Krista Reginetter's Facebook — 4-H members preparing milkweed seedballs for distribution to RAGBRAI riders)

Famous Iowans Impacting Horticulture

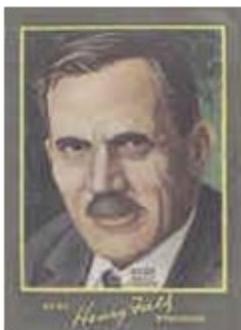
Two Innovators from Shenandoah

By Lynn Pruitt, Master Gardener

Emma Mae and I each grew up in Nodaway County, Missouri about 20 miles apart although we didn't meet until we were in college. In each of our farm homes the standard practice was for our parents to listen each morning to radio weather reports, and at noon to listen to the agricultural markets. Both of our radios were usually tuned to KMA Station in Shenandoah, Iowa, less than 40 miles from our homes. Although sometimes our parents listened to KFNF Station also located in "Shen". It was unique for a city of less than 7,000 to have two high quality competing radio stations.

Every once in a while on a rainy Saturday, my family would drive to Shen to do some shopping and to visit the radio stations. One of them, maybe both, had a glass enclosed broadcasting area where we could watch the radio personalities live. Another attraction to Shen was competing plant nurseries founded by Henry Field (KFNF) and Earl May (KMA).

Henry Field, who was born in 1871, started out as a young boy gathering plant seeds from his mother's garden; then packaging and selling them in Shen. He also sold garden produce, plants and flowers door-to-door. After working for a seed company in Des Moines, Henry and his new wife started a truck farm near Shen and then in 1907 they incorporated as Henry Field Seed Company.



Henry Field started KFNF Radio in 1924 to provide entertainment, information and to promote his seed business which became one of the largest and successful in the country. When we

were growing up in the 1940's and 1950's, Henry's son

Frank Field was the primary personality on KFNF Radio. The Field business has since been bought out by other companies but the radio station continues as an FM station.



Coming along also in Shenandoah, about 20 years after Henry Field, was Earl May. Earl May was a very energetic entrepreneur who worked as a door-to-door salesman for a seed company.

His young wife just happened to be the daughter of a very successful wholesale nursery business from Shenandoah, Iowa.

Earl May had studied to be a lawyer but diligently learned the seed business and together with his wife, in 1919 they formed the Earl May Seed and Nursery Company.

Business was slow for several years until Earl May started using a radio station in Omaha to promote his seed and nursery business. He built his own station (KMA) in 1925 in Shen, just one year after Henry Field built his (KFNF). KMA included a mix of entertainment and agricultural information as well as his own advertisements and soon popularity emerged. Earl May also used seed catalogues to promote the business until recently — now they rely on their successful garden center chain.

Both of these Iowans have had a profound impact on the distribution of gardening seeds and nursery stock across the country.

More Famous Iowans

Notable Women from Shenandoah

Edited By Emma Mae Pruitt, Master Gardener



In the previous article Lynn mentioned how our farm parents daily listened to the weather and market reports on Shenandoah radio stations. In this article I will present additional information important to women of that era. Radio stations established to promote seed and nursery stock businesses were an important outlet and communication tool for rural and urban women alike.

Henry Field's first wife Annie Hawxby was a gardener who helped with his seed business but died from scarlet fever after giving birth to a son, Edward. A year later Henry Field married Edna Thompson and to that union was born 10 children. Although Henry worked long days in the seed business, he was always around his family during mealtimes and nights.

Henry Field build this radio station on top of his seedhouse in 1924. The call letters, KFNF formed the slogan for the station and his life: "Keep Friendly, Never Frown".

Henry's second wife Edna died in 1925 and forced him to be a single parent until 1929 when he married Bertha McCullen, a company employee. His business was thriving and employed hundreds of the residents of Shenandoah. His extensive use of the U.S. Postal Service accounted for 2/3 of the city's total postal volume.

Leanna Field Driftmier, Henry's sister, took to the radio airwaves in 1926 the start of radio homemakers. Her program was call "The Mother's Hour" but it eventually was known as "Kitchen Klatter". Many a farm wife would tune in for advise on raising children, food recipes, household tips, and just to learn the neighborhood news.

Even though Leanna suffered a broken back in 1930, she continued to broadcast from her farm home until 1976 when she was past 90.

Kitchen Klatter radio program was first on KFNF and later on KMA being broadcast into six Midwestern states. In the 1950's the popular "neighboring on the air" programs were broadcast from the speaker's farm home. Evelyn Birkby has one such program called "Down a Country Lane" on KMA.

Here is a summary of the radio homemakers' impact on life from that era as quoted from <https://thesmartset.com/the-radio-homemaker/>

"Radio homemakers showed their listeners how to navigate difficult times with ways to save, to grow their own food, to use leftovers, to dry foods and smoke meat, and to can fruit, vegetables, and meats."

"They offered recipes that were easy to make and taught them to sew clothes from seed sack cloth."

"On a deeper, more significant level, the recipes would lead to food sharing, to caring, and in food was found the symbolic significance of a promise for a better day."

"There were over a decade of hundreds of broadcasts. Each radio homemaker made an impression and reinforced an overarching ideal of the good neighbor: always there when you need them with a willing ear, a kind word, and a plate of freshly baked cookies."

Kitchen Klatter radio was very important to my mother and I dedicate this article to her, Marie McGinness Owens.



Fungal Diseases in Plants

By Gretchen Nollman, Master Gardener Intern,
and William Koellner, Lifetime Master Gardener



Many different kinds of organisms can cause plant disease, including: bacteria, fungi, viruses, nematodes and parasitic plants. An organism that causes plant disease is called a plant pathogen. Plant pathogens are considered plant pests. Plant pathogens spread in various ways, including by insects, water, soil, air, people and other animals.

Fungi constitute the largest number of plant pathogens and are responsible for a range of serious plant diseases. Most vegetable diseases are caused by fungi. They damage plants by killing cells and/or causing plant stress. Sources of fungal infections are infected seed, soil, crop debris, nearby crops and weeds. Fungi are spread by wind and water splash, and through the movement of contaminated soil, animals, workers, machinery, tools, seedlings and other plant material. They enter plants through natural openings such as stomata and through wounds caused by pruning, harvesting, hail, insects, other diseases, and mechanical damage.

A sign of plant disease is physical evidence of the pathogen. For example, fungal fruiting bodies are a sign of disease. When you look at powdery mildew on a lilac leaf, you're actually looking at the parasitic fungal disease organism itself. Bacterial canker of stone fruits causes gummy substance, a bacteria emerging from the cankers. The thick, liquid is primarily composed of bacteria and is a sign of the disease, although the canker itself is composed of plant tissue and is a symptom.

A symptom of plant disease is a visible effect of disease on the plant. Symptoms may include a detectable change in color, shape or function of the plant as it responds to the pathogen. Leaf wilting is a typical symptom of verticillium wilt, caused by the fungal plant pathogens. You are not actually seeing the disease, but rather a symptom that is being caused by the pathogen.

Fungal disease signs: Leaf rust (common leaf rust in corn); Stem rust (wheat stem rust); white mold; and Powdery mildew

Fungal disease symptoms: Birds-eye spot on berries (anthracnose); Damping off of seedlings' Leaf spot (brown spot); Chlorosis (yellowing of leaves); and Bacterial ooze

Disease fungi take their energy from the plants on which they live. They are responsible for a great deal of damage and are characterized by wilting, scabs, moldy coatings, rusts, and blotches and rotted tissue. This page is designed to help identify some of the more common plant diseases and provides earth-friendly solutions

Again, plant **diseases** are usually caused by fungi or bacteria. A key to understanding plant diseases and their prevention lies in the fact that both fungi and bacteria need moist conditions. As a whole, plant diseases can be divided into two broad categories -1) diseases spread by wind or splashing raindrops; and 2) diseases that live in the soil.

Continued next page, DISEASES

Continued from previous page, DISEASES

In the case of wind and splashing raindrops, spores spread to leaves or flowers. Then the spores germinate, usually within a droplet of water on the leaf surface, and then enter the leaf. Infection from this type of disease can be prevented by protecting the leaf either by a fungicide or keeping the leaf as dry as possible. Fungicides provide a protective barrier on the leaf surface, preventing the spore from germinating or killing it before it enters the leaf. This must be accomplished before the spore hits the leaf, therefore timing is the most factor when using a fungicide. The fungicide must be reapplied as it will wear off over time, or new growth occurs with the plants.

If you live in an area where rainfall is frequent, or relative humidity is high, and dew forms on the plant surface most nights, it will be impossible to keep the leaves dry. In addition, even if you live in an area with significant winds, the density of the plants will also prevent moisture from evaporating. If you irrigate, you must design your cultural practices to reduce collection of water on leaves for an extended period to allow the spores to germinate.

The second area of plant diseases consists of those living in our soil. These diseases usually attack plants through their roots. Some of the organisms are such as water molds are present in most soils but are not usually a problem, especially if the soil is allowed to dry out. Therefore, the solution will be to analyze the slope of the land, improve the drainage, which in part will allow the soil profile to drain,

Other disease organisms are present in soils due to transferring the organisms from imported plants to the garden. Buying plants from a reputable nursery or store where their planting media is pasteurized or use soilless mixes. Always remove diseased plants from gardens

and destroy those diseased plants. Do not compost the diseased plants, because the heat generated in a compost pile is not sufficient to destroy the organism.

Tips for managing fungal diseases include:

- Understand the lifecycles, survival mechanisms, and conducive environmental conditions for fungi
- Be committed to farm sanitation – clean up your farm and remove all weeds, crop debris, and volunteer hosts. Unclean equipment spreads what's not removed to other locations and soon cause weeds to be endemic on your property.
- Use resistant or tolerant varieties
- Use clean transplants and seed (and seed treatments)
- Monitor weather conditions (particularly temperature, humidity, and leaf wetness)
- Understand the implications for irrigation timing and minimize free moisture and high humidity periods (e.g. irrigating at around 4 am rather than at dusk, not irrigating during peak periods of spore release)
- Appropriate crop rotations (long rotations with non-host crops may be necessary)
- Avoid heavily infested blocks by testing soil for diseases in the soil prior to planting
- Monitor crops regularly and be able to detect early symptoms on your crop
- Amend and manage soil to disadvantage the fungi (some fungal diseases can survive in the soil for 30 years or more)
- Minimize ways in which the disease can spread on-farm and in gardens– remove and destroy sick plants when symptoms first show
- Understand the influence of planting time, plant spacing and overlapping crops
- Apply preventative fungicides based on weather conditions
- Understand fungicide resistance and rotation of chemical groups.

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Krista Regennitter
Muscatine County Extension Director
Master Gardener Liaison

. . and justice for all

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

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Maryrose Peterschmidt (2020)

Gretchen Nollman (Intern)

() Year term expires as of Dec. 31

* Going off Board Dec 31, 2019/2020 but eligible for re-election



Editorial Comments:

Please remember, this is YOUR newsletter. Your articles, photographs and other tidbits are welcome. Send them by the end of each month to pruit.lynn@gmail.com or call 563.260.0234

— Lynn Pruitt, Editor —



Mary Danner's white Peace Rose — won Best Overall Tea Rose at Muscatine County Fair

Congrats!