Take a Friend to your next Master Gardening Event

- Our field trip to Horn-baker Gardens in Princeton, Illinois
- Or to visit the Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve near Monsanto
- Or to tour Plum Grove in Iowa City
- How about our next General Meeting including garden tour and educational briefing at Nichols
- Or get them involved in the Bucket Brigade at the County Fair
- Or maybe they would like to go on a Fern Walk at Wild Cat Den

Whether it is a novice home gardener or a retired Master Gardener, we have a lot to offer and your friend will thank you!
Upcoming General Meeting and Event Highlights

Coordinated by Jane Hodge
Master Gardener

Future Local Events:

June 9, all day — Hornbacker Gardens Tour and Educational Presentations in Princeton, IL
June 12 — Garden Tour 6pm/General Meeting 7pm at Pruitt’s at 606 Broadway, Nichols - Including Educational Presentation by Kathy Haltmeyer
June 26, 6:00 pm — Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve Tour at Monsanto Rec Bldg on Wiggins Rd
July 10, 6:00 pm til dark — Fern Walk at Wildcat Den State Park
July 15, 2:00 pm — Plum Grove garden tour in Iowa City
July 17, Bucket Brigade @ WL Fair Grounds
July 24, 6:30pm — ISU Field Day — Fruit and Vegetable Meeting at Muscatine Island ISU Research Farm
Sept 11, 6:30 pm — MG Board Meeting at ISU Extension Office
Oct 9, 6:30 pm — General Meeting at ISU Extension Office - Tami Schmidt will present the prairie rejuvenation she has done at her Milan home.
Nov 13, 6:30 pm — MG Board Meeting at ISU Extension Office
Dec 11, 6:00 pm — MG Annual Meeting at New Hope Church

(see Krista’s article for Summer Webcast schedule)

Regional Events:

June 10, 1:00-4:00pm — Iowa Arboretum 50th Anniversary — Madrid
June 13-16, 8am-4pm — Upper Midwest Regional Master Garden Conference — Chaska, MN
June 16, 1-3pm — Top 10 Mistakes Gardeners Make — State Center, IA (in conjunction with State Center Rose Festival)
June 19, 6pm — Cedar Valley Arboretum and Botanic Gardens Stroll — Waterloo, IA (see page 21)
June 23, 9am-4pm — Tour of Exclusive Gardens + 3 Mini Workshops — Dubuque, IA
June 23, 10am-2pm — Pollinator Fest — Reiman Gardens, Ames, IA

See ISU Website for additional information and many more opportunities:
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/events

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS OF:
• GENERAL MEETING
• GARDEN TOURS
• LOCAL & OUT OF TOWN TOURS

To Schedule Home Garden Tours: Call Jane 563.272.1638
MG Education Committee Report

HORNBAKER GARDENS TOUR—June 9
A must-see garden and greenhouse! Hornbakers’ family owned and operated gardens feature large collections of hostas, daylilies, trees and shrubs, grasses, aquatics, annuals and other perennials. June 9 is their Open House and they are advertising many sales.

Schedule for Saturday, June 9:
9:00 leave ISU Extension to carpool to 22937 1140 North Avenue, Princeton, Illinois
10:30 arrive at Hornbaker Gardens
11:00 Workshop then shop
1:00 lunch
1:45 depart for home
3:30 arrive home

HOME GARDEN TOURS—June 12
Besides hosting our MG General Meeting at their home on June 12, Emma and Lynn Pruitt will also be giving tours of their fabulous gardens...I hear they have added a several more gardens already this spring.

BIG SAND MOUND—June 26
Once every 3 years Monsanto and Mid-American Energy open their Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve to the public. The preserve has a unique ecosystem of plants and animals not typically found in Iowa. Within the 510 acres the BSM is home to undisturbed prairies, shallow ponds and woodlands and it has the highest concentration of threatened and endangered species in the state. Of the more that 400 different plants at the site 80% are native. Our MG group has permission from these companies to have a special tour given to us by Paul Mayes who serves on their scientific advisory committee. We are finalized for Tuesday, June 26 at 6:00pm. We will meet at the Monsanto Rec. Building on Wiggins Road in Muscatine. We will meet Paul Mayes at the Monsanto Rec. Building it does not have a separate address. Monsanto address is 2500 Wiggins Road, Muscatine, IA. The Rec Bldg is on the same property, but you have to drive on Olgilvey Ave. to get to it. Olgilvey Ave is accessible from Wiggins Road.

Directions are: take Stewart Road (X61) south from Muscatine to Wiggins Road. Turn left onto Wiggins, then make an immediate right onto Olgilvey. Take the first left, a gravel road back onto the Monsanto property and follow to the end, which will be at the Rec Bldg.

WILD CAT DEN FERN WALK—July 10
Bob, the fern expert, Bryant is hosting a fern walk through Wild Cat Den. Save the evening of July 10 for a walk through paradise. More information to follow.

PLUM GROVE TOUR—July 15
(more info next month)

(continued above right)
News from Susan

By Susan Cradick
Master Gardener

FARMERS’ MARKET

What can I say, we all know about the Farmers’ Market. I want to have a planning meeting; if you are new and want to get involved, give me a call or email. Great volunteer hours (no weeding), great exposure for Master Gardeners, great people contact and a great way to see the market yourself.

We still have Saturday openings and also single sign-ups that could use another “body” to help them. We seem to have the same people working every year, many who work during the week and welcome some Saturday hours, many who really enjoy the hustle and bustle of Saturday morning Farmers’ Market activity!

Check your schedules and sign up – if something conflicts, you can always switch with someone or cancel completely.

HORNBAKER TOUR

I am planning on going on this plant trip as I have never been and hear so much good about it! Depending on how many are planning on going and car-pooling, I’m willing to take the truck and pull my trailer for plants! It is 4 x 4 x 8’ and we can tarp it so no wind is blowing them. Four foot high will handle any large potted plants or small bushes.

I’m having Dave drive so still have room for two/three to ride (extended cab). If many of you have been before or are not planning on purchasing much probably plants can fit in car trunks and I don’t need to take trailer.

If you could let me and/or Jane Hodge know if you’re planning on going and who wants to drive, and who might feel they would use the trailer, I can decide if it’s worth it. That way several could ride in cars together without worrying if their plants will all fit in trunk. And, maybe you don’t know what you’ll purchase until you see it but if a lot of us are going I can base the trailer on number of people going. Hope this works. Susan

ART OF GARDENING

Terrific news! Just released! Our half of the Art of Gardening proceeds came to $2400.20! This compares to $1915.00 last year. Thanks to all who helped and attended – you made this possible!

Think about being part of the committee that begins to develop the 2019 program in the fall.

Thanks, Susan

Susan Cradick 563.299.9114
Cradicks45@yahoo.com
Hello Master Gardeners,

Things are picking up for the summer! Don’t forget as you are answering questions or asking questions that the Horticulture and Home Pest News is a GREAT site full of information: https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/. If you are looking for new ways to use your garden produce check out the Spend Smart. Eat Smart. site: https://spendsmart.extension.iastate.edu/recipes/.

We have three great Summer Webcasts coming up! All three will be 6:30-8:30 pm at the Extension Office. I am still looking for hosts for these webinars – great way to get some extra volunteer hours on top of education hours! Let me know if you are interested (Kristar@iastate.edu). These webcasts are free and open to the public – bring a friend!

· Thursday, June 28 – Insect Update & Tree Care: Get the latest details about invasive garden pests. Then learn about how to maintain the health of your trees.
· Thursday, July 26 – Local Bees & Organic Vegetables: Find out how you can attract native bees and other pollinators to the garden. Then learn how to organically maintain your vegetable garden.
· Thursday, August 23 – Compost 101 & Growing Roses: Build your compost IQ. Then learn how to grow roses that will make your garden shine.

Josh Michal at the Muscatine Island Research Farm has accepted a new position with ISU Extension and Outreach, so Dominic Snyder is holding down the fort this summer. With less staff it will be even more important that we provide some help to Dominic in harvesting the donation garden. Unless you ask not to be listed, Dominic will be sending an email to active Master Gardeners when he is ready to harvest. Anyone who can come is welcome! Keep your eyes out for an email from me or Dominic as harvest time starts.

(continued next page, DIRECTOR)
Registrations are starting to come in for the Iowa Master Conservationist program that we are offering this fall in cooperation with Louisa County Extension and Outreach and The Nature Conservancy. The program will run Thursday evenings, August 30 through October 11, 6-9 pm. Each session will be at a different location around Muscatine and Louisa County and build off of the online learning materials sent out the week prior. There is no service component to this course. Registration is $100. More info: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/muscatine/news/master-conservationist-program-be-offered-muscatine-and-louisa-counties

We have started a new Muscatine County Extension and Outreach newsletter. This monthly newsletter will highlight different extension programs. Our goal is to raise awareness about all that Extension is doing in Muscatine County. If you didn’t receive the newsletter please subscribe at: https://www.facebook.com/MuscatineExtension/app/100265896690345/ Tell your friends to sign up!

We are gearing up for fair at our office – don’t forget that the Bucket Brigade is not only a fun completion but a great way to help beautify the fair grounds. Find out more about entering here: http://muscatinecountyfair.com/pdf/2018/Bucket_Brigade 2018.pdf

Hope to see you all at the fair!
Krista

Tentative Future Zoo Garden Coffee Schedule

**June 16th** - Attracting and Feeding Butterflies - The Sample Gals  
**July 21st** - Prairie Food Sources for Modern Day Chefs - Riverside Resort  
**August 18th** - Protecting the Planet One Tree at a Time - Nature Conservancy and Muscatine Branching Out  
**September 15th** - Gardening is for the Birds! - US Fish and Wildlife
Remarks from the Chair

By Ed Moreno, Master Gardener, Chair

What a busy month! Of course recently the weather has influenced our activity. A cold rainy day impacted on the, now annual, Muscatine County Master Gardeners, Cedar Valley Iris & Daylily Society and the Muscatine Garden Club Plant Sale. And the record-breaking heat at the end of month has made watering our flowers, plants and gardens critically important and hard to work in. I have always been amazed how farmers could share weather remembrances from years gone by. Now I understand.

There is a lot to look forward to this coming month including and not limited to:

- Hornbaker Garden Center Tour – June 9th
- Our General Meeting at the Pruitt’s – June 12th
- Big Sand Mound Tour – June 26th

I was pleased to meet fellow MMG member Mary Wilder at the Big Sand Mound presentation hosted by MCC. It should be an awesome and fascinating event! We are very lucky to have it in Muscatine County.

The MMG Board is a fun group to work with because of their experience, dedication and commitment to the members, projects and activities of our organization. We were sad to hear one of our intern members, Shelly Maharry, resigned and excited for her as she starts her position as the Executive Director of the Johnson County Foundation. She will be successful. And this creates an opportunity for a new member to join our board. Please let us know if you may be interested. We are working to make committees stronger by defining their focus and putting in place systems to serve MMG now and into the future.

Thanks and July is right round the corner.

Ed
Muscatine Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting Minutes - Extension Office
May 8, 2018 6:30 PM

Board Members Present: Mary Danner, Kathy Haltmeyer, Heather Haroun, Jane Hodge, Ron Jensen, Ed Moreno, Maryrose Peterschmidt. Absent: Candi Whitmer

Intern Members: Rachel Horner Brackett and Shelly Maharry

Past Board President: Lynn Pruitt

Extension Liaison: Krista Regenitter

Guest: Emma Mae Pruitt

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30 by President Moreno

2. Treasurer’s Report and Payment of bills: We have a balance of $6,867.21 without the Art of Gardening included. An invoice of $71.62 was presented for six months of printing cost. Report was accepted.

3. Minutes from March 13, 2018 were approved as written

4. Meetings for 2018 were updated to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Meeting</th>
<th>General Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>February 13</td>
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<td>March 13</td>
<td>April 10</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
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<td>Farm Tour sometime in August to replace July Board</td>
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<td>September 11</td>
<td>October 9</td>
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<td>November 13</td>
<td>December 11 (Annual Mtg.)</td>
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5. Programs for General Meetings for 2018:

   **February 13** - 6:30: Bob Bryant - Glorious Ferns
   **April 10** - 6:30: ISU Extension Entomology Professor Donald Lewis via Zoom, “Iowa’s Common Vegetable Insect Pests.”
   **June 12** - 6:00: Tour Pruitt’s Garden (Pruitt’s address - 606 Broadway, Nichols) with short program by Kathy Haltmeyer about sustainable use and conservation of native plants and landscape - Landscaping For Life/ Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Bring a chair, bug spray, and snack to share.
   **October 9** - 6:30: Tami Schmidt, ISU Extension - Prairie renovation at Milan home.
   **December 11** - 6:00: Annual Meeting at New Hope Church

(continued next page, BOARD MEETING)
6. Events for 2018

March 17 - 8:00 am at MCC - Art of Gardening - a debriefing meeting will happen when MCC gives us a financial report.

April 17 - 6:00 pm: Greenhouse Tour and Presentation at Hilltop Garden, 11606 23rd Street, Illinois City, IL. Discussion about the good side of Cannabis.

April 24 - 6:00: Tour and presentation Taylor Market Greenhouse 2637 Steward Road: Interesting to see the vacuum seeding demo and ideas from the Fair Bucket Pros.

April 27 - L & M Kid’s Day of Caring at Zoo Garden: A lot of work was accomplished.

May 12 - 8:00 am: Combined plant sale at Discovery Park with Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society and Muscatine Garden Club.

May 19 - Zoo Garden Coffee at Butterfly Garden - 3rd Saturday of Month at 9:30.

June 9 - Hornbaker Garden Tour & workshop - Princeton, IL. Carpool will leave from Extension Office at 9:00.

July 10 - Fern walk with Bob Bryant at Wildcat Den Park. Location to park to follow.

July 15 - Plum Grove Garden Tour Iowa City. Carpool from Extension at 12:30 - starts 2:00.

July 17 - Bucket Brigade at Fair Grounds: Theme - Lighten Up/Colors - pink, white, and lavender. Must be there by 5:00 - judged at 6:00 stay till end of fair.

July ?? - Fruit and Vegetable Meeting at Research Farm.

7. Plant Sale Planning: Susan gave an update on what, where, and when we needed to bring our plants and ourselves to help with sale. Sale will be rain or shine!

8. MMG Scholarship: Evaluation of selection criteria was discussed at length with the agreement that the ideas shared by the board and Emma Mae would go back to committee for a report back to the board on possible changes. Areas discussed were need, grades, area of study, volunteer hours and 4H/FFA involvement.

9. New Programming of Master Gardening Classes: This is a transition year for Muscatine to learn from other counties how to do the a Extension MG Coordinators Conference Training in Madison, WI. Kathy will
be attending the Scout County classes to bring ideas back to a committee to transition Muscatine County to a “flip classroom next year. The Board approved Kathy Haltmeyer going to a Extension MG Coordinator-Conference Training in Madison, WI. Kathy will cover food and transportation and $575 was approved for registration and room.

10. **Master Conservationist Program** will be October 11, 2018. Krista asked if the Master Gardeners would cover one-half of the $500 for Jim Pease. This would happen in Morning Sun Community Center. If would be free to MG with a public cost of $10.

11. Krista discussed the idea of sharing our Master Gardening Training with Louisa County. The Board saw no problem at the current time.

12. Bill Koellner proposed the purchase of trees for the Fairground in conjunction with the Muscatine Fair Board, Muscatine Branching Out, and Master Gardeners to replace old and destroyed trees on the fairgrounds. After a discussion it was decided to table the request for $750 for 5 -7 trees till more information was available. A vote could be done online since the next board Meeting is not till September.

13. No other items for discussion.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm

Submitted by Kathy Haltmeyer

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*With help from Bill, Ron, Deb, Emma Mae and Lynn, Hostas were dug up and replanted around a couple building at the Fair Grounds.*
Muscatine Island Research and Demonstration Farm Home Demo Gardens Update

This year's themes for the Home Demonstration Gardens at Research Farms is "Eat a Rainbow" for the pantry garden and a "Garden for the Bees."

The Field Day is scheduled for Tuesday, July 24 at 6:30 pm.

We will again be asking for Master Gardener volunteers to harvest the home demonstration garden for local food pantries. There will not be a face-to-face training session this year. Volunteers will be asked to participate in an online training webinar that includes food security, food safety (including sanitation), data collection, and donation. It will be approximately 15-20 minutes in length, and will count as continuing education hours for the Master Gardener volunteers. Krista will share more information as it is available.

Another change is the amount of data collected at the gardens this year. We have decided to stop conducting the cultivar trial. Therefore, counts are no longer required. We are still expecting volunteers to collect data - but only total marketable and total pounds per cultivar at each harvest. This information will let us know how much we are donating to local food pantries and still give us an idea of percentage marketable yield per cultivar. Data collection should begin around mid to late June with the cool-season crops!

This year we are partnering with United Way to find volunteers to transport harvest to the Food Pantries so the main volunteer ask to Master Gardeners is to help research farm staff harvest and record data on the gardens. Dominic Snyder, with the Muscatine Island Research Farm, will be sending out emails asking for volunteers as the time approaches. If you do NOT want to help with this project please email Krista (KristaR@iastate.edu).
West Liberty Donation Garden 2018

(photos courtesy of Ed and Bill)
Church of Christ Donation Garden 2018
(most planting by Bonnie and Paul; photos by Lynn)
Hy-Vee Main Street Garden 2018

(planting by Nancy Dew and Flickinger Learning Center kiddos with help from Susan & Lynn)
Muscatine’s Joint Plant Sale 2018
(even though it was cold and rainy our Master Gardeners helped a lot)
Muscatine Bridge Welcome Garden

By Laura McGinness, Master Gardener

My grandchildren helped pull weeds and plant flowers and perennials. I would like to thank Hilltop Greenhouse for plant donations.

Of course it turned very hot after planting. So out came the watering cans!

Working at bridge with my grandsons Rylan and Rydge! We cleaned all the weeds. Planted a few perennials. Plus many geraniums for summer color!
In the search for a durable, colorful annual flower able to handle the rigors of a typical Missouri summer, zinnia ranks high on the list of possibilities. Available in nearly every color of the rainbow, its heat and drought tolerance along with its low-maintenance nature make it a familiar sight in annual beds and borders.

For decades, zinnia's major detraction had been its susceptibility to powdery mildew. Fortunately, plant breeders have made great strides in improving zinnia's ability to tolerate the troublesome disease while improving its desirable qualities. If you haven't grown zinnias recently, you are in for a pleasant surprise. In short, today's zinnia is not the flower grandma used to grow.

The common garden zinnia (Zinnia elegans) is a member of the sunflower (Asteraceae) family of plants and a native of Mexico. Evidently, the Spanish explorers who first encountered zinina were not terribly impressed and named it mal de ojos which, literally interpreted, means "sickness of the eye". Fortunately, not everyone shared their opinion of the flower. Thanks to the work of European plant breeders who began selecting zinnias for their desirable characteristics, zinnia was introduced into the gardening world in the 19th century. It is named in honor of Johann Gottfried Zinn, an 18th century botanist and anatomist.

As a garden flower, zinnia first became widely popular in the United States around 1920 when Bodger Seed Company introduced a variety named 'Giant Dahlia'. The name refers to the fact that zinnias come in two flower forms: dahlia and cactus. Dahlia-flowered zinnias have ray florets (petals) that are broad, tightly-packed and extend somewhat downward that their tip. Cactus-flowered zinnias have quill-like petals whose edges are reflexed downward.

(Continued next page, ZINNIA)
Thanks to plant breeding, zinnias are available in every size and color imaginable. It's a bit hard to imagine that towering giants such as 'State Fair Mix' which easily achieves a high of three feet and bears flowers six inches in diameter belong to the same species as diminutive varieties such as 'Thumbelina'. The latter rarely exceeds six inches in height and bears flowers about an inch and one-half in diameter.

Zinnias are great garden flowers for Missouri for several reasons. First, they adore heat—which is a real plus for a garden plant in the "Show Me" state during the months of July and August. Second, they are very versatile in the garden serving equally well in beds or borders, depending upon the cultivar chosen. Additionally, the taller, large-flowered cultivars make excellent, long-lived cut flowers for those interested in enhancing their interior decor. Finally, they are "user-friendly" and not difficult to grow. It is one of the few garden flowers that can be started equally well by planting seeds directly in the garden or by purchasing transplants. If direct seeding is done, one should wait until the soil has warmed which, in Missouri, means the month of May.

Zinnias prefer a well-drained garden loam of moderate fertility. Space according to variety. Vigorous by nature, they are, however, prone to attack by several pests. Spider mites along with chewing insects such as grasshopper and "bud worms" can be troublesome. Powdery mildew is by far the most frequently encountered disease, however plant breeders have made progress in combating this disease. Several of the newer cultivars (e.g. the 'Magellan®' series) appear to be more tolerant of mildew than are the older ones. In all cases, keeping foliage as dry as possible (do not overhead irrigate) and spacing plants apart for good air circulation can help manage the disease. Fungicides labeled for powdery mildew control also can be used as a preventative measure.

(Continued next page, ZINNIA)
(Continued from previous page, ZINNIA)

For those wishing to re-acquaint themselves with this willing visitor to Missouri gardens, there are many new varieties to try. The afore-mentioned 'Magellan®' series comes highly recommended. It boasts vigorous and uniform plants that mature to a height of 12 to 14 inches. Its large, fully-double flowers are vibrant in color and of exceptional quality.

Additional newcomers to the zinnia world include the 'Profusion®' series (Zinnia x hybrida) and the 'Zahara®' series (Zinnia marylandica). Both bear abundant flowers two to three inches in diameter are available in a variety of colors. Plants are 12-18 inches in height and extremely disease resistant. Although not terribly effective as cut flowers because of their small size, these two series of zinnia provide a virtual riot of color in the garden with minimal care. Both series feature All American Selection (AAS) winners. The latter includes 'Profusion®' orange, white, red, double hot cherry and double deep salmon, as well as 'Zahara®' starlite rose, double fire and double cherry.

Another relatively new zinnia that deserves trying is 'Crystal White'. It, too, is an AAS winner that is a member of the species known as lance-leaf zinnia (Zinnia angustifolia). It has a dwarf, spreading habit and is literally covered with two-inch diameter flowers all summer, making it an ideal choice for edging. Its disease resistance is excellent as is its ability to tolerate heat. Other new and exciting varieties of zinnia exist. When in doubt about which ones to try, look for those that are AAS winners.

When all is said-and-done, few garden plants are as easily grown, enjoyed as much, or come in such a wide diversity of colors, sizes and types as zinnia. If you have not tried this fan of Missouri's hot, humid summers lately, you are in for a pleasant surprise.
Wilton Farmer's Market
Every Thursday
4:30-7:00 PM

VENDORS: $10 Weekly • $50 Season • Chamber Members FREE

VENDOR APPLICATIONS CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE WILTON CHAMBER OFFICE, ADVOCATE NEWS OFFICE OR ONLINE AT WILTONIOWA.ORG

At Elder Park in historic Downtown Wilton!
On the corner of Maurer and Railroad Streets.

May 31 - Sept. 13
Contact Eva Belitz at 563-732-2330
or Layce DeLong at 563-732-2029
All Master Gardener Meeting 2018

Please join us at the Cedar Valley Arboretum & Botanic Gardens

Tuesday, June 19th
(Rain Date: June 28th)
6:00pm

Enjoy strolling acres of beautiful gardens, orchards, and topiaries and talking with other Master Gardeners from around the region.

We will need people to bring treats/finger food for everyone to enjoy.

Please contact your county’s MG Coordinator to sign up for bringing treats.
Water and lemonade will be provide as will plates, silverware and napkins.
Please bring a lawn chair.
Consider carpooling to minimize the number of cars and maximizing the fun of getting there.

40 acres of beauty located next door/east of Hawkeye Community College
1927 E Orange Road, Waterloo

Ph: 319-234-6811

www.extension.iastate.edu/blackhawk
Finish up planting

- **Plant seeds that like warm soil.** Sow corn, squash, cucumbers and melon seeds or seedlings when the soil has warmed to at least 65° F, usually two weeks after the last frost date.
- **Finish planting annuals in containers and in bare spots in your garden.** Large greenhouses will still have lots of selection at the beginning of the month.
- **Divide and transplant most late-summer and fall-blooming perennials now.** Wait to divide spring bloomers until fall.
- **Continue planting trees, shrubs and roses.** But don’t plant bare-root types. They need cool, wet weather to take off.
- **In the northern Midwest,** continue to plant gladiolus corms, canna rhizomes, begonia tubers, and other summer bulbs.

Deadhead, harvest, weed and fertilize

- **Deadhead flowers regularly.** It not only keeps your landscape tidy-looking, it encourages certain flowers to bloom more.
- **Harvest veggies regularly.** It will encourage vegetables to keep producing well until fall. This is especially true with green beans, but also green peppers, hot peppers, cucumbers, squash, eggplants and tomatoes.
- **Keep up with weeding.** The best time to weed is after a good rain so you can easily pull out the roots.

(continued next page, GUIDE)
Deadhead, harvest, weed and fertilize (con’t)

- **Fertilize containers regularly.** Watering flushes out many nutrients. For best results, use a special bloom-boosting fertilizer on flowering plants.
- **Mulch now.** Use wood chips and other weed-suppressing materials now that the soil has warmed.
- **Remove spring bulb foliage.** Once the foliage pulls away with very little resistance, you can discard it.

**Mow lawns often**

- **Mow high this time of year.** The longer grass will shade the soil, conserving moisture and discouraging weeds. Mow to 3 inches long for cool-season grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass and 2 inches for most warm-season grasses, such as Bermudagrass and zoysia. But also remember never to remove more than one-third of the grass blade at a time or you'll stress your grass.
2018 Master Gardener Committees — Chair persons
(There are still opportunities for volunteers)

Arboretum — Charles Rickey 563-260-5807
Art of Gardening — Susan Cradick 563-299-9114
Bucket Brigade — Barb Woods 563-506-4506 and Linda Wells 563-263-0292
Community Donation Gardens — Krista Regennitter 563-263-5701
Education — Jane Hodge 563-272-1638
Fair Floral Hall — Bill Koellner 319-627-4545
Farmer's Market — Susan Cradick 563-299-9114
Helping Master Gardeners Enter Hours — Krista Regennitter 563-263-5701
Historian — Emma Mae Pruitt 319-723-4362
Hy-Vee — Mainstreet Garden — Lynn Pruitt 563-260-0234
Manning Desk at Extension Office — Krista Regennitter 563-263-5701
Member’s Garden Tours — Jane Hodge 563-272-1638
Mulford Community Gardens — Heather Harroun 563-554-0028
Muscatine Branching Out — Kathy Chalupa 563-299-0887
Muscatine Bridge Entry Sign Area — Chair position open
Muscatine County Fair Office Garden — Bill Koellner 319-627-4545
Newsletter — Lynn Pruitt 563-260-0234
Plant Sale — Heather Harroun 563-554-0028
Publicity — Ed Moreno 319-331-0713
Zoo Garden — Maryrose Peterschmidt 563-263-0846

Now is the ideal time to volunteer to serve with one of the committees listed to the left. Just give a call to the listed chair person.

Please note there is one committee without a chair person. Give Laura McGinnis a call if you want to know what’s involved — 309-791-0054

Here is a beautiful flower submitted by Jane Hodge
**Muscatine County Extension Office**
1514 Isett Avenue
Muscatine, IA  52761-4629
563-263-5701 or 800-992-0894
Krista Regennitter
Muscatine County Extension Director
Master Gardener Liaison
. . and justice for all
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 coop-
erating.

**2018 Muscatine County Master Gardener Board**
Board Members
Ed Moreno (18)*  Chair
Heather Haroun (18)*  Vice Chair
Candi Whitmer (19)*  Sec/Treas
Kathy Haltmeyer (18)*
Mary Danner (19)
Jane Hodge (19)
Ron Jensen (19)*
Maryrose Peterschmidt (18)*
Lynn Pruitt (Past Chair Advisor)
(  )Year term expires as of Dec. 31
* Going off Board Dec 31, 2018/2019
but eligible for re-election

**Current Emails and Addresses**
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.

**Can you name this beautiful flower?**
(Photo credit to Jane Hodge)

Editorial Comments:
Please remember, this is YOUR newsletter.
Your articles, photographs and other tidbits are
welcome. Send them by the end of each
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— Lynn Pruitt, Editor —