April 2020
Muscatine County

****PLEASE TAKE NOTE TO CANCELLED MEETINGS AND/OR CLASSES ON PAGE 2 OF NEWSLETTER AND FUN OTHER DETAILS FROM OUR Education Coordinator
Carolyn Lemaster, Master Gardener ******

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Per Dr. John Lawrence, the Vice President of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, “All in-person meetings and events are to be cancelled through May 9th (with a possible extension).” Here is his March 20th message about meetings, events, and volunteer projects. Message to Master Gardeners from Dr. John Lawrence.

In the meantime, we can still learn, dream, and plan! There are innumerable websites to get some education hour while we are at home. Krista says anything from a state Extension is always good! Here are a few of her recommendations:

Complete the evaluation (link in the corresponding worksheet) for any webinar you watch.

2020 Iowa Master Gardener Winter Webcast series:

**Iowa Weather**  Link to webinar: https://youtu.be/sauJ_S5KUJk  Link to worksheet/evaluation: https://iastate.box.com/s/yflsw5momwrtti7gue5pt5mpvqlzqzc2

**Bring Kids in the Garden**  Link to webinar: https://youtu.be/7WZMDGL_gQU  Link to worksheet/evaluation: https://iastate.box.com/s/rlmxq7du4ba8lwzxy32om8aucq4flta

**Explore the Ada Hayden Herbarium**  Link to webinar: https://youtu.be/bu2B-BCTDpM  Link to worksheet/evaluation: https://iastate.box.com/s/hznizxoyh7q4tifkwmt9n2r38l38mys5

**Pollinator Champions**, a free, self-paced online course offered by Michigan State University. The course is packed full of videos, articles, and fun activities to guide you through the amazing world of pollinators and pollination. **Click here to register.**

University of Oregon Master Gardener webinar series.

Growing Horticulture in Northwest Illinois webinar series

Gardening with Steil

Muscatine County Master Gardeners Facebook page for opportunities and updates

**Home Garden Tours!**  If you are interested in hosting a home garden tour this summer or fall, please contact Carolyn Lemaster, Ed Moreno, or Mary Danner.

Of course, we are all anxious to buy plants! Call or check Facebook pages of local nurseries for updates on their opening days and other information.
Get some education hours while you are at home!

Hello!
Iowa Master Gardeners has decided to release the Winter 2020 Webcasts early given the situation with COVID-19. Since Art of Gardening was canceled this is a great way to get some education hours in. Each webinar can be counted as 1 hour of education. We ask that you complete the evaluation (link in the corresponding worksheet) for any webinar you watch.

2020 Iowa Master Gardener Winter Webcast series:

Iowa Weather
1. Link to webcast: https://youtu.be/sauJ_S5KUJk
2. Link to worksheet/evaluation: https://iastate.box.com/s/yflsw5momwrtti7gue5pt5mpvqlzqzc2

Bring Kids in the Garden
1. Link to webcast: https://youtu.be/7WZMDGL_gQU
2. Link to worksheet/evaluation: https://iastate.box.com/s/rlmxq7du4ba8lwxyc32om8aucq4flta

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Another opportunity is Pollinator Champions, a free, self-paced online course offered by Michigan State University. The course is packed full of videos, articles, and fun activities to guide you through the amazing world of pollinators and pollination. Click here to register.

Here is a link to the University of Oregon Master Gardener webinar series.

If you find other good learning resources from University's please share and I will post them on the Muscatine County Master Gardener Facebook page.

Thanks!
Krista
Looking for more events to attend? Please go check this website out for more Master Gardener Events [https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/events](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/events)

Looking for education hours???....

Here is FREE online class you could share with your MG's that they could do at home.. It is the Pollinator Champion from the University of Michigan. If Michigan MG take the course they can count 6 hours of education. At the end you get a Congratulations you passed. It is a great way to get 6 hours of education at HOME for free.

[https://pollinators.msu.edu/programs/pollinator-champions/register-for-pollinator-champions/](https://pollinators.msu.edu/programs/pollinator-champions/register-for-pollinator-champions/)
Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail, and Peter Rabbit
By Mary Wildermuth, Master Gardener

Once upon a time there were four little Rabbits, and their names were— Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail, and Peter. And maybe you have recently seen them in your garden!

They lived with their Mother in a sand-bank, underneath the root of a very big fir-tree.

"Now, my dears," said old Mrs. Rabbit one morning, "you may go into the fields or down the lane, but don't go into Mr. McGregor's garden: your Father had an accident there; he was put in a pie by Mrs. McGregor."

"Now run along, and don't get into mischief. I am going out."

Then old Mrs. Rabbit took a basket and her umbrella, and went through the wood to the baker's. She bought a loaf of brown bread and five currant buns.

Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail, who were good little bunnies, went down the lane to gather blackberries;

But Peter, who was very naughty, ran straight away to Mr. McGregor's garden, and squeezed under the gate!

First he ate some lettuces and some French beans; and then he ate some radishes; And then, feeling rather sick, he went to look for some parsley. But round the end of a cucumber frame, whom should he meet but Mr. McGregor!

Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages, but he jumped up and ran after Peter, waving a rake and calling out, "Stop thief."

Peter was most dreadfully frightened; he rushed all over the garden, for he had forgotten the way back to the gate.

He lost one of his shoes among the cabbages, and the other shoe amongst the potatoes. After losing them, he ran on four legs and went faster, so that I think he might have got away altogether if he had not unfortunately run into a gooseberry net, and got caught by the large buttons on his jacket. It was a blue jacket with brass buttons, quite new.

Peter gave himself up for lost, and shed big tears; but his sobs were overheard by some friendly sparrows, who flew to him in great excitement, and implored him to exert himself.

Mr. McGregor came up with a sieve, which he intended to pop upon the top of Peter; but Peter wriggled out just in time, leaving his jacket behind him. And rushed into the toolshed, and jumped into a can. It would have been a beautiful thing to hide in, if it had not had so much water in it.
Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail, and Peter Rabbit
By Mary Wildermuth, Master Gardener

Mr. McGregor was quite sure that Peter was somewhere in the toolshed, perhaps hidden underneath a flower-pot. He began to turn them over carefully, looking under each. Presently Peter sneezed—“Kertyschoo!” Mr. McGregor was after him in no time, and tried to put his foot upon Peter, who jumped out of a window, upsetting three plants. The window was too small for Mr. McGregor, and he was tired of running after Peter. He went back to his work.

Peter sat down to rest; he was out of breath and trembling with fright, and he had not the least idea which way to go. Also he was very damp with sitting in that can. After a time he began to wander about, going lippity—lippity—not very fast, and looking all around.

He found a door in a wall; but it was locked, and there was no room for a fat little rabbit to squeeze underneath.

An old mouse was running in and out over the stone doorstep, carrying peas and beans to her family in the wood. Peter asked her the way to the gate, but she had such a large pea in her mouth that she could not answer. She only shook her head at him. Peter began to cry.

Then he tried to find his way straight across the garden, but he became more and more puzzled. Presently, he came to a pond where Mr. McGregor filled his water-cans. A white cat was staring at some goldfish; she sat very, very still, but now and then the tip of her tail twitched as if it were alive. Peter thought it best to go away without speaking to her; he has heard about cats from his cousin, little Benjamin Bunny. He went back towards the toolshed, but suddenly, quite close to him, he heard the noise of a hoe—scr-r-ritch, scratch, scratch, scratch. Peter scuttered underneath the bushes. But presently, as nothing happened, he came out, and climbed upon a wheelbarrow, and peeped over.

The first thing he saw was Mr. McGregor hoeing onions. His back was turned towards Peter, and beyond him was the gate! Peter got down very quietly off the wheelbarrow, and started running as fast as he could go, along a straight walk behind some black-currant bushes. Mr. McGregor caught sight of him at the corner, but Peter did not care. He slipped underneath the gate, and was safe at last in the wood outside the garden.
Mr. McGregor hung up the little jacket and the shoes for a scare-crow to frighten the black-birds. Peter never stopped running or looked behind him till he got home to the big fir-tree. He was so tired that he flopped down upon the nice soft sand on the floor of the rabbit-hole, and shut his eyes. His mother was busy cooking; she wondered what he had done with his clothes. It was the second little jacket and pair of shoes that Peter had lost in a fortnight!

I am sorry to say that Peter was not very well during the evening. His mother put him to bed, and made some camomile tea; and she gave a dose of it to Peter! “One table-spoonful to be taken at bed-time.”

But Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail had bread and milk and blackberries for supper.

Beatrix Potter wrote this great little story in 1902 and it launched her writing career and eventually her entry into the world of gardening. I have just downloaded onto my kindle Beatrix Potter’s Gardening Life (the plants and places that inspired the classic children’s tales).

I like the book so much for the wonderful writing style and garden descriptions, as well as the beautiful pictures that I am going to purchase a hardcopy. You, too, I think would enjoy the descriptions of the plants and some may have even travelled to the gardens described in the book.

“Every garden tells a story, if you know how to read it. The story of Beatrix Potter’s garden begins on an October day in the village of Sawrey in the north of England. A woman walks up a rise toward a farmhouse, tape measure in hand. She is small in stature, and some gray hairs are wound into her otherwise brown bun….Her blue eyes are wide, imagining the garden she will lay out, its walls and walks and perhaps a long trellis like the one at her uncle’s home in Wales.

Beatrix Potter can picture the garden built and full of flowers: snowdrops in the winter, a spring torrent of lilacs and azaleas and daffodils, summer covered with roses, chrysanthemums for autumn. Fruit trees are a must. A pear tree and some plums can go in with the old apples in the orchard, some currants and gooseberries with the flowers…”

I hope you have time to check out this great book and even more I am sure you like Beatrix are planning your garden and enjoying getting out and digging in the dirt!! Happy Spring!!
The saying *every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end* rings true for me. My time with Muscatine County Extension and Outreach and Muscatine County Master Gardeners is coming to a close as I begin a new adventure in my life. I have accepted the position as the Program Officer, Global Education with the Stanley Center for Peace and Security here in Muscatine. I have truly enjoyed working along side Muscatine County Master Gardeners for the past 5+ years. The work you all do is amazing, and you should be proud! Whether it be Art of Gardening, Master Gardener Scholarships, Bucket Brigade, Growing Together Donation Gardens, or amazing projects like the Zoo Garden or Muscatine Arboretum, you all are taking your passion for horticulture and making your community a better place to live, work and play.

You will be in good hands! On April 6 we welcome our new Office Assistant, Lauren Nerad, to the Muscatine County Extension team. Lauren is an Iowa State grad with a double major is Advertising and Agricultural Communications. She even took some horticulture courses at ISU! I know you all will be as impressed with Lauren as I was in the interview process. Lauren will serve as the interim contact till a new County Director is hired. Jeff Macomber, ISU Extension Regional Director, will also serve as an interim contact. You can email him at jmacombe@iastate.edu. Jeff will be leading the County Director search.

I hope you are all staying safe with our COVID-19 situation. As of now, Iowa State University Extension has directed that all educational programs be cancelled through May 9. This impacts not only our apple tree grafting workshop, but also the plant sale, both of which have been cancelled. The board will be meeting in early April to discuss plans to move the plant sale to this fall, please stay tuned. We had also discussed a Hosta workday at the Arboretum on April 25 – this is also being postponed. Keep an eye out on the Master Gardener Facebook page or on your email for updates. We will also be posting online learning opportunities to the Facebook page as we discover them.

Thank you again for sharing your Master Gardener journey with me! I hope to visit at a future meeting so I can say a proper good-bye.

Krista
News from the Chair
By Mary Wildermuth, Master Gardener

Have you seen Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail or Peter?

In these days of Coronavirus, social distancing, quarantining and staying at home…. we as Master Gardeners are luckier than most because we love playing in our own yard!! We can release from the constant barrage of information about what we should or should not do or can or cannot do.

Hopefully you will enjoy the hunt for Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail or Peter..

And while you are hunting let me tell you about some upcoming changes:

- April 7, 2020 – Cancellation of Grafting Workshop
- April 14, 2020 – Board Meeting rescheduled for April 7, 2020 online
- April 25, 2020 – Cancellation of the Great Hosta Divide
- May 9, 2020 – Cancellation of the Annual Plant Sale (stay tuned this may or may not be rescheduled for a later date) Your suggestions welcome!
- May 12, 2020 – Master Gardener Meeting TBA rather held, cancelled or postponed.

Friday, April 10, 2020 - Krista and Shirley bid us farewell as they both venture into the next phase of their lives. We will miss both of them first as our friends and fellow colleagues and then for all the work they have completed for Muscatine County Extension Services and much more specifically for us, as Master Gardeners!!

Krista always greeted us with a laugh and a smile no matter her role. Krista’s leadership will be greatly missed, as she dedicated many hours to our success! We appreciate the great and the small no matter the task or event for you did it without a fuss or a word!! We wish you the very best as you move to your new career venture. You are always welcome back at our door.
News from the Chair
By Mary Wildermuth, Master Gardener

Shirley’s steady hand and voice always led us in the direction of the answer as she supported the Muscatine County Extension Office through her daily knowledge of the organization.. whether we needed to schedule a room, check out a key or find a fellow Master Gardener’s phone number, email or address!! Shirley will be greatly missed for her corporate memory because she has supported a myriad of Directors, Board Members and Iowa State Extension revisions and changes! We understand, Shirley your readiness to retire!!

To both Krista and Shirley we say thank you for the labors of love you gave daily to us as Master Gardeners and the important community work provided through both of you for the Muscatine County Extension Office!!

Wishing you much future success and ask you to come back and visit whenever you can!!

Horticulture and Home Pest News

A new issue of the Iowa State University Extension & Outreach Horticulture and Home Pest News is now available.

To view the new issue, please visit the following URL: https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/issue/march-27-2020

You can find other items of interest on our website: https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/
Hello Master Gardeners! I hope you are all staying safe during this crazy time. I wanted to send a note to remind you all the Shirley Grimm, Muscatine County Extension Office Manager, is retiring as of April 15. Shirley has been in this role, and helped to support Master Gardeners, for over 20 years! I wanted to request, if you are willing, for you to send a card of congratulations to Shirley over the next few weeks. I think she would be delighted by the mail. You can mail cards to our office, 1601 Plaza Place, Muscatine, IA 52761.

**Notes to Krista from fellow Master Gardeners:**

Krista---Sending best wishes for your new adventure! Your new employer is fortunate to have your skills and expertise. I always knew Master Gardeners were in good hands with your advice and guidance. Will miss your smile and upbeat optimism! Your fellow dachshund, pet lover, Jan Koellner

We will have a new face in the extension’s office in April.

Lauren Nerad (picture below) will be our new Office Assistant that will be taking Shirley’s place.
Meeting minutes from March 10th meeting will be in the next newsletter. Thank you
Zoo garden News
By Maryrose Peterschmidt, Master Gardener

This is not the article I had planned on turning in to Gretchen for news at the Zoo Garden. The coronavirus has affected the status of activities at the gardens. Spring clean up to start with is now on hold like so many other start up plans. It is really difficult to make any definite plans until we get past this. So stay strong and healthy and when we are past this everything should fall into place.

My husband John and I decided to return from Florida early due to the coronavirus. We wanted to share some of our favorite photos and good memories with you. The tropical plants, birds, reptiles and beautiful sunsets are just a few.

Maryrose
How do you ensure that your plants are getting the right nutrients? Here are some guidelines to help you get started. The quantity of nutrients you use on your garden is dependent on your plant’s growth stage. That is particularly true for the most important macronutrients your plants needs to thrive: nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), and potassium (K).

**Nitrogen** plays a critical role in photosynthesis as it facilitates the production of chlorophyll and amino acids. A nitrogen deficiency is identifiable when the plants leaves begin to turn a pale yellow and eventually droop as the plant dies.

**Phosphorous** is especially important in the process of photosynthesis, a plant’s metabolism, and the ability for the plant to absorb nutrients. A phosphorous deficiency makes plants more vulnerable to pathogens and is identified by leaf discoloration from green to a purple-reddish hue.

**Potassium** helps plants grow earlier, fight disease better, and use water more efficiently. Plants malnourished in potassium will show this deficiency with yellowing leaves. However, a potassium deficiency distinguishes itself through the location of the yellowing; yellowing begins at the leaf’s edges.

Most fertilizer bottles will show a numbered N-P-K value to indicate the quantity of each of those nutrients in that order. For example, a fertilizer that says 2-1-6 contains 2% nitrogen, 1% phosphorous, and 6% potassium. During a plant’s vegetative stage, it needs a high quantity of nitrogen, a medium quantity of phosphorus, and a high quantity of potassium. Once your plant begins to flower, it needs much less nitrogen, but the values remain the same for the other two nutrients. This is why buying a slow-release, general purpose nutrient formula throughout the duration of your growing season is a bad idea; too much nitrogen during the flowering stage will inhibit bud growth.

People are pretty familiar with the importance of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium, but other macronutrients including calcium, magnesium, and sulfur are important too.

These nutrients are so important that they are often referred to as secondary nutrients rather than micronutrients.

**Calcium** better enables plants to absorb other nutrients, maintain proper cell structure, and facilitate photosynthesis.

**Magnesium** plays a vital role in the creation of chlorophyll, making it essential in a plant’s ability to photosynthesize.

**Sulfur** aids in the development of strong roots, chlorophyll, and plant proteins during the cannabis plant’s vegetative stage.

Your plant will also benefit from very small quantities of micronutrients including zinc, iron, manganese, molybdenum, chlorine, cobalt,硅, boron, and copper.

**Zinc** helps to strengthen your plants’ leaves, stalks, and branches. It is also responsible for the creation of enzymes and the growth hormone, auxin.

**Iron** is particularly beneficial for young plants as chlorophyll synthesis and enzymes responsible for growth need iron.

**Manganese** enables plants to use nitrates in protein creation, to disintegrate enzymes, and to create chlorophyll.
How To Make Sure Your Plants Are Getting All Their Nutrients
By Gretchen Nollman, Master Gardener and William Koellner, Lifetime Master Gardener

**Molybdenum**, like manganese, gives plants the ability to use nitrates in protein production. Although toxic in high concentrations, very low amounts of **chlorine** play an essential role in plant osmosis, photosynthesis, and immunity.

**Cobalt** is necessary for overall plant growth, CO2 absorption, and leaf disk expansion.

**Silicon** stimulates plant growth and can result in higher yields.

**Boron** plays an essential role in multiple aspects of plant growth including calcium absorption, pollen germination, maturation, seed production, protein production, and plant structure formation. **Copper** is necessary for bud formation.

Although each of these micronutrients are considered essential for healthy plant growth, it likely isn’t necessary for you to supplement them unless you have a clear deficiency. They are already present in most soils and are truly beneficial in very small amounts.

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**Muscatine County Extension and Outreach**

**Now Hiring: County Extension Director**

Application deadline: 5 pm April 24, 2020

Job Purpose: Under the direction of the Muscatine County Extension Council, the County Extension Director will work to carry out the Land Grant Mission of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. This includes the implementation of educational programming; supervision, training and coordination of county staff; preparation and interpretation of reports; oversight of budget and fiscal activities including the development of new resources; interpretation and communication of policy; development of new community partnerships; evaluation and reporting on program areas. The Muscatine County Extension Director is an employee of the Muscatine County Agricultural Extension District.

This is a full time, salary position. Find the job description and application materials at: [https://www.extension.iastate.edu/muscatine/news/now-hiring-county-extension-director](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/muscatine/news/now-hiring-county-extension-director)
Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling

Compiled by Lynn Pruitt, Master Gardener

Do you know how Iowa’s Lake Darling State Park near Brighton got its name?
Do you know who was the impetus behind funding of wildlife conservation through the Federal Duck Stamp program, and also designed the first Duck Stamp?
And, who is responsible for founding the National Wildlife Foundation in 1936?

The answer to each of these questions is Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling (October 21, 1876 – February 12, 1962).

In addition to the above, Darling won two Pulitzer Prizes, primarily through his award-winning cartoons which he used very effectively to promote wildlife conservation. Darling’s nickname “Ding” came from the 1st and last 3 letters of his last name which he initially wrote as “D’ing”.

Darling’s family moved to Sioux City, Iowa from Norwood, Michigan in 1886. After college studies in South Dakota and Wisconsin, he became a reporter for the Sioux City Journal in 1900. Then in 1906 he married and the couple moved to Des Moines where he worked for the Des Moines Register and Leader. He alternated between Iowa and New York but finally, in 1919, he settled in Des Moines where he flourished as an editorial cartoonist.

Darling was appointed as director of the U.S Biological Survey (eventually became the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) in 1934 by President Franklin Roosevelt. Land near Darling’s winter home on Sanibel Island in southwest Florida was designated as the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

The Audubon Medal was awarded to Ding Darling in 1960 for his achievements in resource conservation. He also won the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning in both 1923 and 1942.

“Land, water and vegetation are just that dependent on one another. Without these three primary elements in natural balance, we can have neither fish nor game, wild flowers nor trees, labor nor capital, nor sus-
Muscatine County Extension Office
1601 Plaza Place
Muscatine, IA 52761
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.

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(2020)*
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

Current Emails and Addresses
As a reminder – keep both the Extension
Office current on any changes of e-mail ad-
dresses, phone numbers, or mailing address-
es. These need to be current to keep you —
our members — informed.

Editorial Comments:
I enjoyed putting this together and look for-
ward to more! If I missed anything or you don’t
see something that should be in here, please
let me know by emailing me at
nollmanag@gmail.com or calling me 319-541-
1462. Thanks! Gretchen Nollman