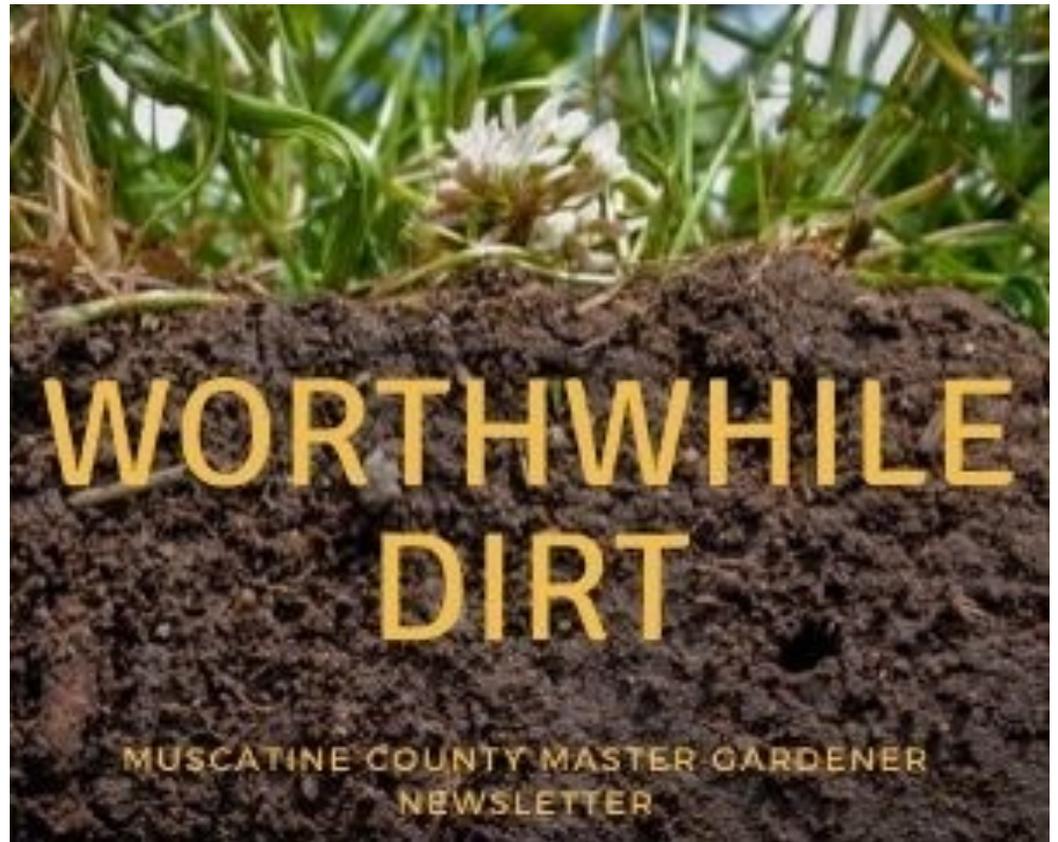


**JULY 2020**

**Muscatine  
County**



# WORTHWHILE DIRT

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# News from Education Coordinator

By Carolyn Lemaster, Master Gardener

## Garden Tour! at Jim & Heather Harroun

Saturday, July 4 at 9:00am - 2:00pm

Sunday, July 5 at 12noon - 4:00pm

Saturday, July 11 at 9:00am - 2:00pm

Sunday, July 12 at 12noon - 4:00pm

Address: 11723 – 238th St. W. Illinois City, IL

(2 houses before Hilltop Greenhouses on the same side of the road).

Please come and enjoy the fruits of our labor!! Peak bloom will probably be the 11-12<sup>th</sup>. Masks are not required, but please be mindful of your social distance.

\*\*Please bring your own lawn chair, bottled water will be provided!



## Iowa Master Gardener News & Views June Newsletter

### Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

#### Horticulture and Home Pest News

News, Videos and Podcasts

### University of Illinois Extension Four Seasons Gardening Webinar

Living Carpets: Ground Covers Tuesday, July 14, at 1:30 p.m.

Adventures in Edible Landscaping Tuesday, August 11, at 1:30 p.m.

### Trees Forever Webinars

Fruit Tree Keepers

Grow More Trees

Creating a Buzz

### Linn County Master Gardeners invite you to attend “A Walk in the Park”

This year we’re highlighting the gardens at Lowe Park (4500 N. 10<sup>th</sup> St in Marion). We have a variety of garden beds there (Roses, Perennials, Annuals and more).

We invite you to come to this free event at the park on Friday, July 10 from 4PM to 7PM or on Saturday, July 11 from 9 to 1:00. Master Gardeners will be available to answer your questions and we’ll have free publications (and some for purchase).

We’ll have signage in the gardens that will help you maintain that all-important physical distancing.

# News from the Chair

By Mary Wildermuth, Master Gardener

The Muscatine Master Gardeners will have the opportunity to visit Heather Harroun's gardens during the first couple of weekends in July. This will give us the opportunity to see her gardens and also see one another. Heather has provided a schedule which is included in this newsletter.

The Master Gardener Board will meet in our regularly scheduled meeting either in person or by Zoom on August 11, 2020. At this time the board will consider our plans for the Fall considering the issues related to the Covid Virus and ongoing pandemic. The next General Meeting will be held on September 8<sup>th</sup> either in person or via zoom. As you have topics for the meetings please feel free to send them to me or any other board member.

As you celebrate 4<sup>th</sup> of July this year, please be grateful for the great country that we live in and enjoy the blessings of the bounty that we embrace as Iowans and Master Gardeners!! Hoping yours is a safe and fire crackly 4<sup>th</sup>!!



# Zion Lutheran Church Donation Garden

By Terri Hanson , Master Gardener



# Anna Christensen Opel

## May 22, 1884 – October 27, 1978

By Mary Wildermuth, Master Gardener

Anna Opel had a prolific presence in the garden world and in Muscatine for over 40 years from the mid 1930's until her death in 1978. Anna is listed or mentioned in over 200 entries in the *Muscatine Journal* for sharing her plant knowledge expertise with various church and community groups, as well as her beloved Garden Club .

Charles Rickey plant and tree expert today recalls Anna's radio show about "Garden Plants" on KWPC. When asked if he knew Anna he stated "she was the garden club". Anna's weekly radio program the "Garden Club of the Airwaves" aired for over 20 years.

Anna's love of plants, was captured in the scrapbooks she created to memorialize the local wildflowers and plants she researched, searched out and collected. When speaking to groups or on her radio program she educated by discussing how to grow and harvest plants but also taught the origin and botanical names of plants, shrubs, trees and grasses.

Opel was the President of the Garden Club from 1938-1939 and again from 1951-1952, additionally she founded and was the 1<sup>st</sup> President of the Muscatine Herb Pals.

Anna's work and interests did not stop at Muscatine but carried on throughout the state of Iowa, as she served for 24 years as the Iowa State Wild Flower Chairman for the Iowa Federation of Garden Clubs. In 1963 she received a Meritorious Radio Award from the National Council of State Garden Clubs for her radio broadcasting programs.

Previous to her presence in the gardening realm she and her husband Charles own several southend restaurants that provided many luncheon meals to Roach and Musser Lumber Company workers. Anna alone opened "Anna's Café" which was located on South Grandview Avenue.

Anna's appointment to the City of Muscatine's Cemetery Commission led to 20 years of dedicated service and a lifelong honorary membership of the committee. Additionally, Mayor Kelly Burns named a section of Greenwood Cemetery in her honor.

Anna was the first woman to serve on the Mississippi River Parkway Commission Great River Road Board. She believed that the Great River Road Project "must not be just miles and miles of concrete". In 1961, Anna was recognized in *Who's Who in American Women* for her self learned knowledge of regional plants and herbs.

In 1970 local Garden Club members honored her prestigious and prolific life's work by purchasing an acre of land at the Iowa Arboretum in Madrid, Iowa .

Anna continued until her death in 1978 to share her knowledge and artistic talents by creating flower pictures on satin pressed behind glass as framed pictures and given as birthday, mother's day or confirmation gifts. Anna loved to share her beautiful live wildflower bouquets at various local church Sunday morning services.. Additionally, she collected nuts and made decorative trees from them. So if you are fortunate enough to find one at a tag sale, turn the picture over and see if you have found a Muscatine artifact created by Anna!! (article sources include many Muscatine Journal articles, Hanft's Remarkable Women and from persons who knew her including Charles Rickey and her granddaughter Joleen Schnedler.)

# TREASURER REPORT...

## Muscatine Master Gardeners Association

By Heather Harroun, Master Gardener



### Garden Walk news...

#### **Garden Tour! at Jim & Heather Harroun**

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The following few pages are articles that Heather Harroun found and thought others would find interest, so enjoy!

Pest Talks by [JC Chong](#) Professor of Entomology at Clemson University

- **Fascinating fasciation**
- **Fasciation vs. phyllody**
- **How to attract aphid killers**
- **Downy mildew named in honor of Margery Daughtrey**

# Pest Talks

Submitted from Heather Harroun,  
Master Gardener

## Fascinating fasciation

I shared a picture from Meg Williamson, plant pathologist at Clemson University, of a deformation on foxglove and asked what you thought it was. After hearing from y'all, I have to say you are much better diagnosticians than I am.



The answer is fasciation. Thanks to those of you who played this "What the ... ?" mystery game: Marilyn Barlow, Kylee Baumle, Andrew Beckman, Ann Bergquist, Jim Borland, Timothy Boyle, Jim Brady, Jill Calabro, Richard Criley, William Darlington, Hugh Davis, Andrew Derksen, Carol Englander, John Esser, Kathy Foreman, C. L. Fornari, Ken Fry, Patricia Gaskin, Deborah Groth, Frank Hale, Keith Hansen, Giles van Hees, Steve Jeffers, Deborah Lalurmondier, Mike Klopmeier, Daria McKelvey, Cynthia Mckenney,

Claude Newport, Jeff Otto, Bob Polomski, John Ruter, Nicole Sanchez, Rob Welsh, Virginia White, Stew Winchester and Mike Woodward. It's great hearing from all of you!

Apparently fasciation is quite rare and common at the same time. Common in the sense that many plant species can be affected so you may notice the condition if you know what to look for. When I was pulling weeds in my so-called "back yard" last week, I found an oxalis that seemed to have suffered from fasciation. Fasciation is also rare because only a very low percentage of a population can be affected. If Meg hadn't introduced it to me, I would've never noticed fasciated plants.

Y'all know you can join just about any interest group on Facebook, right? If you're looking to connect with your fellow fasciation enthusiasts, check out the [Fasciation Fascination public group](#) C.L. Fornari, [the Garden Lady](#), had introduced to me. If you have a Facebook page that you had ignored for a long time but were too lazy to deactivate, drop me a line and join my private group, I-haven't-looked-at-

my-Facebook-page-since-Vincent-and-Jeannie-set-it-up-for-me-ten-years-ago. I told my kid that the inactive account is actually bait to help the FBI catch those Russian hackers or other bad actors.

Even if you are connected to the Russian mafia or FSS, don't you ever think about selling fasciated flower stems to ikebana flower designers! Richard Criley, Emeritus Professor of Horticulture at University of Hawaii at Manoa, and I have that market CORNERED. Stay out if you know what's good for you.

But don't feel bad about not becoming an instant millionaire! Here is a



challenge from Daria McKelvey, Supervisor of the Kemper Center for Home Gardening at the Missouri Botanical Garden, that can instantly make you feel accomplished: try saying "fascinating foxglove fasciation" .

## Fasciation vs. phyllody

Fasciation is typically an enlarged and flattened deformation. No one knows for sure what causes the malformation—it could be a genetic mutation, hormonal imbalance, environmental conditions that cause damage or stress, and infection by a bacterium, virus, phytoplasma, fungus, insect or mite. Seems to me like there is not much anyone can do to resolve fasciation until we know the cause of the problem.

Steve Jeffers, my pathologist counterpart at Clemson University, introduced me to a condition that I have never heard of but I definitely will confuse with fasciation— phyllody.

**Phyllody on strawberries. (Photo credit: Steven Koike, University of California Cooperative Extension)**

Phyllody occurs when tissues that are supposed to develop into a flower turn into leafy tissues instead. Phyllody is caused by a phytoplasma or virus (some of them are vectored by insects, such as leafhoppers), or by environmental conditions that caused a hormonal imbalance. Pruning off the affected tissues or pulling up the infected plants seem to be the only viable management option for phyllody.

There is a third kind of abnormal growth—virescence, which is an abnormal expression of green pigment in tissues that are normally not green. Floral virescence turns normally colorful flowers into green flowers. Virescence is typically associated with phyllody and caused by similar agents.

**Floral virescence. (Photo credit: USDA-ARS, Molecular Plant Pathology Lab)**

Both phyllody and virescence are relatively common phenomenon, at least common enough that I know I have seen them before, even if I didn't know what they were called. Despite my wife's dog's high opinion of me, I can't know everything.



## How to attract aphid killers

Joy Chanin, a Master Gardener Volunteer in Cobb County, Georgia, contacted me last week asking about natural or homemade sprays that can be used to control aphids in home gardens. I provided my typical recommendations of horticultural oil, insecticidal soap and pyrethrins, and warned against using homemade soap solutions for insect control on tender plants.

And I told Joy about attracting natural enemies to the garden by planting oleanders, which often house a huge number of oleander aphids. The aphids then attract a large number of parasitoids and predators, such as the parasitoid *Lysephlebus testaceipes*, that caused the mummies in this picture. The natural enemies produced from these oleander aphids spread to other plants in the garden and control other aphids. Since oleander aphids only attack oleanders, there is no risk of them causing damage on other plants. Unless, of course, if you want to keep the oleanders free of aphids.



One thing we also talked about is the difficulty of maintaining oleanders in Cobb County (USDA plant hardiness Zone 7b). I wasn't really thinking about other more suitable plant species, but then I just

hit my forehead and went, "Duh!" The other name of oleander aphid is milkweed aphid. So, another option is to

grow milkweed, like these in my garden that are covered with oleander aphids, ladybeetles and syrphid fly larvae. Several milkweed species can survive where oleanders cannot.

This concept of attracting, retaining and building natural enemies using plants that can support non-pest herbivores is not a new one. Banker plant systems used in some greenhouses and natural enemy refuges or stripes used in some nurseries, vegetable fields, orchards and vineyards are based on the same idea. One of the most popular banker plant systems is the bird cherry-oat aphid system, where oat or wheat seedlings are used to grow a population of bird cherry-oat aphids, which is then used to build a parasitoid (usually an *Aphidius* species) population. When the banker plants are put into a greenhouse, they can continue to produce parasitoids that spread to the rest of the greenhouse and kill aphids of other species, such as green peach aphid or melon aphid. Because bird cherry-oat aphid only feeds on grassy crops, you don't have to worry about them becoming a problem on your broadleaf plants.



A pretty smart system, and effective too. One grower I worked with installed this banker plant system and saw an 80% reduction in his aphid sprays that season. The grower has since developed his own banker plant production facility for use throughout the operation. Seeing certainly is believing!

## Downy mildew named in honor of Margery Daughtrey

The last piece of news for this week is a joyful one.

If you have been active in the floriculture industry, you've probably interacted with or at least heard of Margery Daughtrey, senior extension associate at Cornell University's Long Island Horticulture Research and Extension Center. Margery has helped develop disease management tools and programs for growers around the country for more than 30 years. Her recent work on impatiens downy mildew has helped us combat this dreaded disease effectively.



Margery Daughtrey, the world famous plant pathologist. (Photo credit: Cornell University)

Margery and her colleagues recently published a paper describing three new downy mildew species associated with ornamental plants. In honor of Margery's contribution to the ornamental industry and the science of phytopathology, the species isolated from cleome is named *Hyaloperonospora daughtreyae*. Although scientists have named species after people since the beginning of taxonomy, this honor is reserved only for the most deserving ones.

What a great honor! Congratulations, Margery.



A

cleome plant infected with the new downy mildew. (Photo credit: Cornell University)

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## Taste of the Season: Asparagus

Bethany Bachmann MU Extension CES in Nutrition and Health Education

### Asparagus, Tomato and Feta Salad

Yield: Makes 8 servings

#### Ingredients:

##### Vinaigrette

- 6 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

##### Salad

- 2 pounds fresh asparagus, tough ends trimmed,  
    dice into 2-inch pieces
- 1 (10.5 ounce) package grape tomatoes, halved
- 2/3 cup chopped walnuts, toasted
- 4 ounces low-fat feta cheese, crumbled

#### Preparation:

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil.
2. Meanwhile, prepare vinaigrette — add vinegar to a small saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat  
    and allow to boil until reduced by half, about 3 minutes.
3. Pour into a jar or bowl and add olive oil, mustard, honey and garlic. Whisk to blend while seasoning with  
    salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.
4. Add asparagus to boiling water and allow to boil until tender crisp, about 4-5 minutes.
5. Meanwhile, fill a medium mixing bowl

with ice and cold water. Drain and immediately transfer

asparagus to ice water; let rest about 10 seconds then drain asparagus well.

6. Transfer to a bowl with tomatoes and walnuts.

7. Drizzle vinaigrette over top and toss lightly. Sprinkle over half of the feta then plate and top with

remaining feta (just so the feta doesn't brown from tossing with all the dressing).

#### Nutrition information per serving

Calories: 161

Total Fat: 11.6g

Sodium: 207mg

Carbohydrates: 9g

Sugar: 5g

Source: Modified from [cookingclassy.com](http://cookingclassy.com)

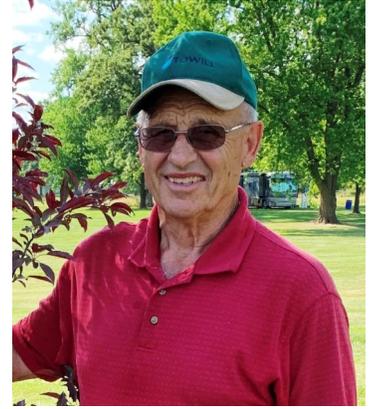
Recipe can be found at <http://missourifamilies.org/nutrition/recipes/AsparagusTomatoFetaSalad.htm>



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# Aldo Leopold

By Lynn Pruitt, Master Gardener

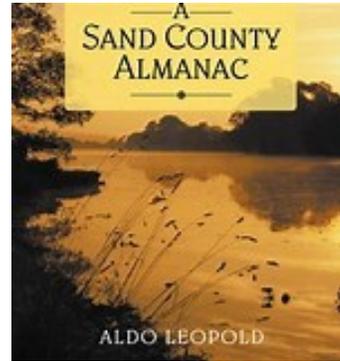
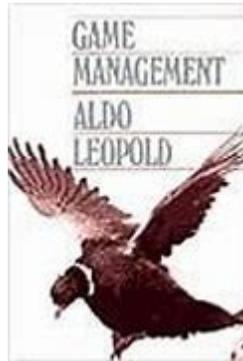


## Aldo Leopold:

The pioneer in land stewardship

Inspired generations of Americans to protect natural resources.

Leopold wrote, "That land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics"



As a boy growing up in Burlington, Iowa, Leopold enjoyed roaming the natural area overlooking the Mississippi River. He went on to study Forestry graduating from Yale University in 1909. His early work was with the National Forestry Service in the southwestern U.S.. A portion of Gila National Forest in New Mexico was established as a “wilderness area” as a direct result of Leopold’s influence. He also instituted the first comprehensive management plan for the Grand Canyon.

The University of Wisconsin started a new program of Game Management in 1933 with Aldo Leopold as their first professor. His first book with the same name was published that same year. A couple years later Leopold and his wife moved to Sauk County, Wisconsin where they bought a farm to be used for family vacations but also for experimental land restoration research. From this location, Leopold authored a collection of essays entitled, “A Sand County Almanac”. His son, Luna, published this book in 1949 shortly after his father’s untimely death from a heart attack while helping fight a neighbor’s brush fire. This quote from the book defines Leopold’s definition of Land Ethic: ***“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”***

The Wilderness Society, which has protected some 111 million acres of wilderness, was established in 1935 by Aldo Leopold and a few other visionaries. Aldo and Estella Leopold’s five children established the Aldo Leopold Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin in 1982 to “foster the land ethic through the legacy of Aldo Leopold.” This foundation also owns the original Leopold farm plus adjacent 300 acres.

## Muscatine County Extension Office

1601 Plaza Place

Muscatine, IA 52761

563-263-5701 or 800-992-0894

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

### Current Emails and Addresses

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

## 2020 Muscatine County Master Gardener Board

### Board Members

Mary Wildermuth, Chair (2021)\*

Rachel Horner Brackett, Vice Chair (2020)\*

Heather Harroun, Sec/Treas(2020)

Kathy Haltmeyer(2020)

Ron Jensen (2021)

Carolyn Lemaster(2021)\*

Ed Moreno (2020)

Maryrose Peterschmidt(2020)

Mary Danner (Past Chair)

Angela Weber (Intern)

( )Year term expires as of Dec. 31

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



### Editorial Comments:

I enjoyed putting this together and look forward 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

