Come Join the Celebration!

Muscatine Master Gardeners Annual Meeting and Recognition

* Welcome New Interns
* Recognition and Awards
* Door Prizes
* Excellent Meal and Fellowship

6:00 pm Tuesday; December 11, 2018

New Hope Church, 3215 Tipton Road, Muscatine

Bring a dish to share, a guest, and your appetite!

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Upcoming Meeting & Event Highlights
Coordinated by Jane Hodge, Master Gardener

Nov 3, 8:30am—3:30pm — ISU On-Campus Class (see below)
Nov 13, 6:30 pm — MG Board Meeting at ISU Extension Office
Dec 11, 6:00 pm — MG Annual Meeting at New Hope Church

Potential ISU On-Campus Class

Was the Saturday Class on Campus your favorite part of the Iowa Master Gardener Training? You met with Master Gardeners from across Iowa, connected with university specialists, and did hands-on activities.

You can attend the Class on Campus on Saturday, November 3. The event includes hands-on workshops, lectures by professors, and lunch. Master Gardeners will earn 7 continuing education hours.

Saturday, November 3; 8:30AM-3:30PM; Cost: $115; Free for 2018 Master Gardener trainees

Upcoming Events from ISU Gardening Website:

Fall Pruning Workshop (Ames) Thursday, November 8, 2018 - 1:30pm
A Symposium for Gardeners (Madrid) Saturday, November 17, 2018 - 9:00am to 4:30pm
Iowa Organic Conference (Iowa City) Monday, November 19, 2018 - 8:00am to 4:30pm

2019 Art of Gardening

Planning for the March 9, 2019 Art of Gardening is in full swing. A group of 6-10 Master Gardeners led by Susan Cradick have been meeting weekly during October to put together an interesting and educational program.

Cindy Kress of MCC has been very supportive in this effort. We are hoping to have seven classrooms available and four 1-hour sessions for a total of 28 classes from which our guests can choose. Our tradition of “Stump the Expert” will also continue to allow a total of 5 educational hours for our participants.

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, March 9, 2019 at Muscatine Community College.
Remarks from the Chair

By Ed Moreno, Master Gardener, Chair

“Into each life some rain must fall.” - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

As the rain continued this past month, I flashed back to 2008. This is when the Coralville Reservoir flowed 7 feet over the spillway, I-80 and I-380 were closed and roads along the Cedar River were washed away. We were desperately sandbagging around infrastructure of the Iowa City Water Division, what was built 1 foot higher than the 100-year flood in 1993!!

Fortunately, I retired as the Water Superintendent three years ago and enjoy the relaxation of gardening and community service through the Muscatine Master Gardeners (MMG).

2018 is coming to a close and the MMG Board is preparing for next year. You have all received a membership survey to help. If you have not completed it please do.

Feedback already received includes ideas communicated at the October 9th General Meeting:

Events:

Home garden tours...perhaps 1-3 hosted by members that include technical programs

Speakers:

Water feature speaker

Places to Visit:

- Decorah Seed Savers
- Chicago Horticulture Show and Botanical Center
- DM Botanical Tour
- Morton Arboretum
- Tami Schmidt’s Prairie – Milan, Ill.

Please continue to share your ideas.

We will be contacting each committee chair to define the yearly activities for programs and projects, schedules, and volunteer hour opportunities. This will be presented at the Annual Meeting in December.

Lastly, we need to fill a position on the Board. Please submit nominees for consideration.

Thank you for being engaged and serving our communities through the MMG Program, and please be sure to track your hours for the past year.

“A rainy day is the perfect time for a walk in the woods.” – Rachel Carson

Respectfully,

Ed Moreno

Happy Halloween!

Halloween at the Muscatine Y - ‘Turtle Power’ in honor of our wet October!
Hello Master Gardeners!

I have been enjoying these beautiful fall days – I hope you all are too. It was a lovely weekend for a hike at Wild Cat Den State Park, the trees are beautiful.

As we near the end of the year I wanted to send a reminder about entering hours online. Please record your hours year-to-date by November 19. This allows me time to calculate hours and order pins in time for the annual meeting on December 11. You can continue to input any hours you earn after November 19 through December 31. Muscatine currently has 1,437.51 hours from 21 different Master Gardeners reported – we typically get over 3,000 hours so I know there are more out there! Hours can be recorded at: https://mastergardenerhours.hort.iastate.edu/. If you have forgotten the system there are a few short videos on the landing page that walk you through the process. I look forward to celebrating your accomplishments with you at the annual meeting on December 11!

In October we wrapped up two great programs; the Growing Together mini grants and the Master Conservationist Program. Please read about the Growing Together project in the newsletter – we should all be very proud of the Muscatine County Master Gardeners involved in this project. We are currently working on our application for 2019. If anyone is interested in getting involved please let me know (kristar@iastate.edu, 563-263-5701). The Master Conservationist program was a partnership between Muscatine and Louisa County Extension and Outreach and the Nature Conservancy of Iowa. The seven week series explored Iowa’s geology, aquatic systems, prairies, woodlands and watersheds. We plan to continue to offer this program on an every other year cycle.

Another partnership we are involved in is the Cedar, Muscatine & Scott County Chapter of Women, Land & Legacy. Women, Land & Legacy (WLL) is a USDA education and outreach program that empowers female landowners and farmers to be agents of positive change in their communities through active participation, educational sessions, and networking opportunities.

(Cont’d next page, DIRECTOR)
Click on the underlined name for a link to the Facebook page. Or if you would like to join the mailing list please let me know and I will share your information with the group.

The 2019 ISU Extension and Outreach Garden Calendar is available in our office. This year the calendar, titled “Gardens Through the Seasons”, uses stunning photography to showcase gardens throughout the year. You can purchase the calendar online (click on the link) or in our office for $7. The calendar has a large grid with space to create a gardening journal to record the progress of your own garden. Monthly tips provide timely cultural information for fruits and vegetables, lawn care recommendations, tree and shrub guidance, and other information.

See you all in December!
Krista

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**There is a wealth of information on ISU Yard & Garden News**

You can find timely gardening information and tips by going to the various sites below. You should be able to determine the subject from the last few words in each website address:

- [https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/short-course-provide-instruction-using-high-tunnel](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/short-course-provide-instruction-using-high-tunnel)
- [https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/publications-provide-information-using-pesticides-safely](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/publications-provide-information-using-pesticides-safely)

And there is still more — visit the website!
Muscatine County Master Gardeners Work to Increase Food Security

Growing Together mini grant allowed 6,500 pounds of fruits and vegetables to be donated to food pantries in Muscatine County

Muscatine, Iowa – For the third consecutive year, the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Master Gardener program partnered with food pantries across Iowa in an effort to reduce food insecurity in the state.

As part of the Growing Together initiative, Master Gardener volunteers help to grow, harvest and donate fruits and vegetables to food pantries. In Muscatine County, Master Gardeners were able to donate over 6,500 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to the Muscatine Community Food Pantry and the West Liberty Food Pantry.

In Muscatine County, Growing Together activities included local Master Gardeners helping to coordinate donation gardens at Church of Christ and Zion Lutheran Church in Muscatine and at First Church United in West Liberty. Master Gardeners helped harvest the home demonstration garden at the Muscatine Island Research Farm in Fruitland, Iowa. Funds from the Growing Together grant also supported a corn-freezing event hosted by United Way of Muscatine and Bayer Crop Science (formerly Monsanto) in which sweet corn was prepared and frozen for the Muscatine Community Food Pantry.

“Muscatine County Extension and Outreach and Muscatine County Master Gardeners are proud to partner with Iowa State SNAP-

Education for another year of this important work”, said Krista Regennitter, Muscatine County Extension Director. “It is exciting to see our local Master Gardeners committed to increasing access to fruits and vegetables for their neighbors with low income.”

The ISU Extension and Outreach Master Gardener Program and ISU Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education (SNAP-Ed) Program collaborated to provide these opportunities to ensure the produce grown will reach local food pantries to make healthy choices easier for families with limited income.

More information about the Growing Together project can be found online, as well as information on how to become a Master Gardener volunteer. Or you can contact the Muscatine County Extension and Outreach office at 563-263-5701.
Muscatine Master Gardeners
General Meeting
October 9, 2018

Tami Schmidt of Milan presented an interesting program describing her “park turned prairie” in Milan, Illinois. Her are a few tidbits from her interesting and compelling presentation:

To create a prairie, first kill grass with black plastic or Roundup.

Native plants grow where they are the happiest.

Mix prairie mixture seed with wet cedar sawdust to facilitate germination.

Consider a worm farm for the blue birds.

Create paths throughout the prairie.

Mow the 1st and 2nd years to about 8”.

Burn prairie every 2-3 years. Burn in Feb/Mar to accommodate migratory birds.

A Native plant sale is a good fund raiser.
The Flipped Classroom concept was utilized involving online homework followed by site visits to Muscatine Island Research Farm, Wildcat Den State Park, Swamp White Oak, Big Sand Mound, Chinkapin Bluff, Port Louisa Wildlife Refuge, and the Environmental Learning Center.
The Muscatine Branching Out tree sale was held on October 20th. 96 trees were sent to new homes within 2 hours. In addition to private properties, some trees went to both the Muscatine Arboretum and the Muscatine County Fairgrounds.

Earlier in October, MBO volunteers helped plant windbreak trees at Lauretta Park in Blue Grass.

Later this month MHS ag students will plant MBO funded trees at the YMCA

Thanks, Cathy
For Muscatine Branching Out

“Love is like a tree, it grows of its own accord, it puts down deep roots into our whole being.”

Trees are the key to our survival, bringing us oxygen, and pure air, giving us wood and fruit, allowing for an ecosystem rich with other plants and animals, bringing us beauty, joy, bringing us stability and beauty in world so often about a fast buck and a billboard, trees we love you, trees we bless you.
Fall Colors

Some Autumn photos from the Pruitt yard. Kind of sad to see these brilliant colors fade into winter but with the cold and snow comes restful and rejuvenating times for the soil and for the gardeners.
I have decided to collaborate with a professional plant specialist, Gretchen Nollman, who works daily with multiple plant varieties using biology, chemistry, economics, ecology, soil science, water science, pest management and genetics to the improvement and management of the major food crops of the world. With this collaboration, we hope to provide knowledge to the reader that is practical and usable.

Are you sharing your flowers and vegetable garden with unwanted pests? We are providing you some ideas using companion plants, that will help you harvest and avoid sharing your produce with these unwanted pests.

Whether you are planting flowers, vegetables, or a cash crop, use of companion plants can be quite useful using partnering plants in hopes of repelling certain pests. While many approaches have yet to be scientifically proven, observation has proven that they can be effective. Even if a particular pest-deterring plant partnership doesn’t work in your garden, it certainly won’t cause it any harm. If you are raising vegetables or grains, pests and weeds are an economic impact in your decisions.

This article will address some companion plants to help make decisions while planning your gardens or fields. Further articles will address strategies on practical decisions, spotting issues in your plants, garden and fields.

Here are some plants that we have observed that definitely work.

1. **Basil**
   Basil and tomatoes historically have proved to coexist side by side. Basil can repel whiteflies, spider mites and aphids on tomatoes. Planting basil around young tomato plants is a deterrent to adult hornworm moths, preventing them from finding the plants and laying their eggs. Basil companion planting will help asparagus, beans, beets, cabbage, chili and bell peppers, eggplant, marigolds, oregano, potatoes and tomatoes. Growing tomatoes and basil near each other is said to make each crop taste better.

2. **Dill**
   Dill helps deter squash bugs. It also helps repel adult cabbageworms when planted among near broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and kale. The heavily scented leaves of dill may repel other insects, as well, or simply mask the scent of the host plant.

3. **Nasturtiums**
   Many gardeners find success planting nasturtiums among cucumber vines to repel the cucumber beetles that feed on

(Continued next page, BEETLES)
cucumber leaves and flowers, and transmit bacterial wilt. These beautiful cute little nasturtiums flowers repel aphids. Actually, they exert a powerful attraction on aphids. Don’t be surprised to see them covered in aphids: that means all the aphids are brought in the same place. Your rose trees, vegetables and other plants are spared!

4. Onions
The bold odor of onions may actually repel pests or confuse them by masking the fragrance of their preferred host plants. Either way, onions in the cucumber patch can deter cucumber beetles, and planting them between carrot rows repels adult carrot root maggot flies. Try circling a row of onions around tomato plants to help repel aphids.

5. Garlic
The scent of this aromatic is said to repel aphids in the lettuce patch, as well as stop Japanese beetles when planted around blueberries, roses, raspberries and other susceptible crops and flowers. Plant garlic to keep spider mites away from phlox and other vulnerable perennials as the scent is repulsive to the mites.

6. Tomatoes
Tomatoes have strong scented foliage of their own, and you can protect your cabbage and broccoli crop from diamond back moth larvae. The adult moths are less likely to lay eggs on broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and kale when planted between and beneath tomato plants.

7. Catnip or Nepeta
Plant this perennial member of the mint family between rows of plants susceptible to flea beetle damage, such as radish and eggplants, as the adult beetles are repelled by the fragrance. Catnip or Nepeta repels ants, flea beetles, aphids, the Japanese beetle, squash bugs, weevils, the Colorado potato beetle, the cabbage looper, and cockroaches.

8. Hoary Tansy Aster (Purple Aster)
Gardeners can use this herb to keep Japanese beetles at bay, planting it among brambles, roses and other plants favored by adult Japanese beetles. Tansy’s strong scent is said to either deter them directly or make it difficult for the beetles to hone in on their host plant. The scent is similar to that of camphor with hints of rosemary.

9. Marigolds
Marigolds can be used anywhere to deter Mexican bean beetles, squash bugs, thrips, tomato hornworms, and whiteflies. They are also known to repel harmful root knot nematodes (soil dwelling microscopic white worms) that attack tomatoes, potatoes, roses, and strawberries.

10. Borage
Used by gardeners for centuries to discourage hornworms on tomatoes and cabbage-worms on broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and kale, Borage is a beautiful addition to the garden. Easily grown from seed, this herb can be readily

(Continued next page, BEETLES)
13. Rosemary
Rosemary is a wonderful aromatic and culinary herb that has a quite distinctive flavor. Planting rosemary nearby will also help your beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots and hot peppers to flourish. Rosemary is believed to repel harmful insects including bean beetle, cabbage fly, cabbage moth and carrot fly.

14. Lemon Grass
Lemon Grass is a sweet pungent, citrusy plant often used in Asian cooking. It is a sun-loving plant, so companion planting with lemongrass should include other plants that like to bask in plenty of heat and light. Not only is lemongrass a culinary seasoning, but it makes a soothing tea said to aid in sleep. Lemongrass contains citronella, a plant oil with pest repelling properties, especially mosquitoes. Using lemongrass among your patio plantings is an excellent way to enjoy your outdoors in summer without worrying about those disease transmitting insects. Traditional crops include mangos, cucumbers, fennel and onions. Be careful about intercropping, as the roots can spread out and eventually take over an area. In areas under fruit trees, like citrus, lemongrass makes an attractive groundcover, reducing weeds and keeping moisture in the soil. It is also useful when planted with tomatoes, peppers, and tomatillos, who prefer the same growing conditions. As an added bonus, lemongrass goes well in dishes that use these fruits.
November Gardening Guide

Time to Tuck Your Garden into Bed for Winter

By Veronica Lorson Fowler

Plant bulbs and mums

-- **Put in bulbs.** Envision your yard filled with colorful crocuses, hyacinths, daffodils and tulips in a few months, and you'll be glad to know you can still plant spring-blooming bulbs until the ground starts to freeze. Just be sure to purchase firm, large, healthy-looking bulbs, even if they're on clearance!

-- **Add mums to your deck, patio or garden.** Florist's mums aren't winter-hardy but are tidy-looking with large flowers; they're perfect for pots. Garden mums are more wild-looking and will come back again next year; plant them in the ground as perennials.

Prepare for winter: wrap and mulch

-- **Wrap trees.** Young trees, those just a year or two old, and fruit trees will appreciate a protective wrap around their trunks. The rolls of paper, plastic or foam-based wrap will protect trees from winter scald and rabbit damage. Remove in the spring.

-- **Wrap roses in cold regions.** In Zones 5 and colder, wrap tender types of roses in burlap. With hybrid teas, the least cold-hardy of all, instead of burlap use chicken wire or another material to make a collar at least 2 feet high around the rose and fill in with straw or chopped autumn leaves.

-- **Mulch roses.** Heap 6 inches to 1 foot of loose soil or compost over the base of your rosebushes to protect them from winter extremes.

-- **Mulch strawberries with straw.** Do this before the temperature drops to 20°F, then put large branches or other weights on top to keep the straw from blowing.

*(Continued next page, GUIDE)*
Rake and Water

-- **Keep raking!** Don't worry about leaves that collect around shrubs and perennial plantings -- they'll provide protection until spring. But don't allow leaves to hang out for more than a few days on lawns because they suffocate the grass.

-- **Water as needed.** If the fall has been unseasonably dry, water newly planted trees, shrubs and other new plantings.

Take Care of Beds and Bulbs

-- **Clean out beds.** After the first killing frost, tear out annuals and cut back perennials, except those you'd like to keep standing for winter interest, such as sedum and grasses. You can also cut back perennials in the early spring, but you might as well get started on the task now.

-- **Store tender bulbs.** After the first frost, dig up tender bulbs, such as gladiolus, cannas, dahlias and caladiums, that won't survive the winter. Store indoors in a cardboard box or paper bag filled with sawdust or other dry, loose material. This will let them "breathe" so they'll be ready for replanting next spring. For details, click "Storing Tender Flower Garden Bulbs" in the Related Links box below.

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**Simple Tips for Gardening**

*Written and Compiled by Rachel Quillin*

*TAKE THY PLASTIC SPADE, IT IS THY PENCIL;*

*TAKE THY SEEDS, THY PLANTS, THEY ARE THY COLOURS.*

— William Mason
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

It’s never too late to volunteer to serve with one of the committees listed to the left. Just give a call to the listed chair person.

A few fall mums are still blooming smartly even though temps have dropped to 27F at least once.
It’s time
to enter your 2018
volunteer and education hours
in the ISU database.

If you need help
Mary Danner is available to help
She has shared her cell phone #
563-299-6700

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)*
Rachel Horner Brackett (Intern)

Lynn Pruitt (Past Chair Advisor)

( ) Year term expires as of Dec. 31
* Going off Board Dec 31, 2018/2019
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 pruitt.lynn@gmail.com or call 563.260.0234
— Lynn Pruitt, Editor —