Tami Schmidt of Milan, Illinois
Speaker for our General Meeting
Tuesday, October 9 at 6:30 pm
Muscatine County Extension Office

Note: Now is the time to make sure all of your Master Gardener volunteer and educational hours have been entered into the ISU database. If you need assistance with this process, please contact Krista or one of the Board Members so we can give you full credit for all of your involvement.

November 19, 2018 is the data entry deadline!
Upcoming General Meeting & Event Highlights
Coordinated by Jane Hodge, Master Gardener

Oct 6, 8am—4pm — Backyard Forest Conference at Johnson County Extension Office

Oct 7, 1pm-6pm — Swamp Stomp: The 2nd Annual Swamp Stomp at Ardon Creek Winery.

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.

Oct 11, 7:30pm — Master Conservation Finale with Jim Peace at Environmental Learning Center in Discovery Park (see page 4 for details)

Oct 19, 1-3pm — Zoo Garden Work Day at Zoo Garden with help from United Way

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

A few Master Gardeners and several others have engaged in the 2018 Master Conservation classes throughout Muscatine and Louisa Counties
I recently read a book entitled ‘Supporting The Decision to Join’. This was written by the ASAE Center for Association Leadership. It shares the results of a study of why members join organizations such as the Muscatine Master Gardeners (MMG) and other non-profit service groups. There was a summary of the four (4) key points meant to help board leaders deepen their understanding of how their responsibilities relate to membership expectations:

- Focus more on the collective benefits of membership, less on the personal benefits,
- Define, encourage, and measure member involvement,
- Don’t assume that elected leaders can correctly identify the priorities of rank-and-file members.
- Stop worrying so much about the younger generation.

Recommendations are presented to help address the key points in order to help make organizations such as MMG better for current and future members.

I am privileged to serve on the Muscatine Master Gardener Board this year. The energy and commitment of fellow board members at our meetings is fun and engaging. And we are always in the inquiry on how to best serve the members of our organization. I wish to share with you a bit about our discussion at our last meeting.

- We recognize that our membership is ‘seasoned’ and getting more so each year. There is a need to recruit new ‘less seasoned’ members to sustain our mission and goals.
- We believe that our ‘committees’ may be ‘activities’ and could be better defined for old and new members to participate in.
- We have noticed that attendance to events was relatively low this year.
- We acknowledged that our budget is relatively healthy.

In order to look to the future through the lens of the ASAE resource and our observations we are requesting your help.

A link to a member survey will be included in this month’s newsletter to ask for your thoughts and insights. It will also be sent with the agenda for our upcoming General Meeting. Please complete it as we are listening for you.

In addition, the committee list will be reviewed. Committee chairs will be asked to define and share the opportunities for service in the activities and how this translates to the service hours and goals of MMG.

And lastly, we are introducing opportunities for members to request financial assistance for MMG related projects and activities they hold near and dear to their hearts.

I look forward to seeing you all at our General Meeting on October 9th.

Respectfully,

Ed Moreno
As the cooler temps come and we work to close up our gardens I wanted to remind everyone to think about entering your hours online. If you have forgotten how the system works there are tutorials on the landing page to help you out. My suggestion – group your hours by project and do ONE entry per project. Then in the comments section you can describe the date range you worked on the project. The link to record hours is https://mastergardenerhours.hort.iastate.edu/. Please report your hours year-to-date by November 19 – this will allow me time to calculate everything for the annual meeting on December 11. But – please keep reporting any hours you accrue after November 19 – the state deadline to have hours in is December 31. If you are in need of a few more hours and not sure how to get them let me know and I can connect you with some project leaders.

In September the Master Gardener’s participating in the Growing Together grants finalized their spending – but they continue to donate produce to area food pantries. As of the end of August we were over the 5,000 pound mark in donated produce!!!! I am anxious to see our final numbers once harvest is over. I want to send out a thank you to the Master Gardeners involved in this project; Lynn & Emma Mae Pruitt, Bonnie Reeb, Ed Moreno, Ron Jensen, and Terri Hanson. The Muscatine Island Research Farm, United Way of Muscatine, Church of Christ, West Liberty First Church United, Zion Lutheran Church, and the Muscatine and West Liberty Food Pantries are also key partners. And a shout out to Karen Broden who has been the main harvester and transporter at the Muscatine Island Research Farm!

The grant applications for the 2019 grants will be coming out this fall – if anyone else is interested in participating please let me know.

A newly formed chapter of Women, Land & Legacy for Cedar, Muscatine and Scott Counties has been formed. The goal of this group is empower female landowners and farmers to be agents of positive change in their communities through active participation, educational sessions and networking. There are two upcoming events which are featured in the 2018 Fall Newsletter which can be found at:


Lastly I wanted to share that 5 of your Master Gardener peers are participating in the Master Conservationist program. We have had a lot of fun and been able to explore Muscatine and Louisa Counties. The program finale will include a public talk by Jim Pease, on Thursday, October 11, 7:30 pm at the Environmental Learning Center at Discovery Park. Jim’s experience includes teaching interpretation to undergraduate and graduate students for 24 years, research on impact of interpretive and education strategies, over two decades as an Extension Wildlife Specialist, director of Iowa’s NatureMapping and Master Conservationist programs, and fifteen years in youth development and natural resources. Muscatine and Louisa County Master Gardeners have sponsored this event, so it is free of charge but an RSVP is required since space is limited. If you would like to attend please let me know and I can add you to the list (kristar@iastate.edu).

I look forward to seeing you at the October 9 general meeting!
Krista
Minutes from Muscatine Master Gardeners Board Meeting  
September 11, 2018

Board members present: Mary Danner, Kathy Haltmeyer, Heather Harroun, Jane Hodge, Ron Jensen, Ed Moreno, Maryrose Peterschmidt; Intern member: Rachel Horner Brackett

Meeting called to order 6:30pm

Treasurers report by Krista:
- Balance as of 9/11/18 $8428.04
- Outstanding: scholarships and Kellor and Kellor
- Motion to accept $95.06 invoice for printing. 1st. Ron, 2nd Maryrose. Motion approved.
- Motion to accept treasurer’s report. 1st Kathy, 2nd Mary. Motion approved.

Motion to approve minutes of May 8th meeting. 1st Jane, 2nd Mary. Motion approved.

Update on past events:
- Plant Sale • In spite of the rain and cold $602.25 was raised. The board recommends continuing with joint plant sale.
- Zoo Garden Potluck • Discussed what the future will bring, what is the commitment to the community, what is the commitment from the community, how to diversify the committee(s).

Attendance at events low
- Fern Walk – 5 MG and 1 spouse
- Big Sand Mound 5
- Hornbaker 9-10
- Plumb Grove 3

Discussed ways to improve attendance at events and meetings.
- Vetting event ideas through membership.
- Ask for commitment to attend.
- Open next general meeting to the public & advertise it.

Donation gardens doing well. Feeding a lot of people.

2019 Board — 4 board members eligible to re-enlist: Ed, Heather, Kathy, Maryrose. All agreed to re-enlist.

Discussed enhancing relationship between the various committees and the board.
- Create a membership survey and address at November board meeting.
- Need to improve MCGA membership connection with interns.

Ron requested expansion of scholarship. No action at this time.

Krista to create a project request form with a definition of qualifying parameters. Form to be included in October newsletter.

Motion to adjourn. 1st. Ron 2nd Maryrose.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Harroun
The Muscatine County Master Gardener board has updated their project grant form – any Master Gardener interested in requesting funding to help with a project is asked to complete this form (see below) which can be found at https://www.extension.iastate.edu/muscatine/yard-gardenhorticulture and submit it to the Extension Office. Grants will be reviewed at Board meetings which are opposite months from our general meetings.

Muscatine County Master Gardeners
Project Grant Request Form

The mission of the Iowa State University Extension & Outreach Master Gardener Program is to provide current, research-based, home horticulture information and education to the citizens of Iowa through programs and projects. Through their participation in educational activities, Master Gardeners also increase their own personal knowledge in horticulture. Master Gardeners extend Iowa State University Extension & Outreach’s consumer horticulture education programs through volunteer activity. Typical grant allocations are between $200-$500. Requests that exceed that amount will be determined on a case by cases basis but may be reduced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name:</th>
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<td>Submitted by:</td>
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<td>Project Manager, if different than submitter:</td>
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<td>Description of Project:</td>
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<td>Funding amount requested:</td>
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<td>Estimated total project cost (attach separate if necessary):</td>
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<td>Educational Objectives: What will people learn?</td>
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<td>Projected results? Who will be impacted?</td>
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<td>How does this project further the mission of Iowa Master Gardeners?</td>
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<td>How will we know the project is successful?</td>
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<td>How will the project be maintained?</td>
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<td>Are there other groups or individuals involved outside of Master Gardeners? Please list.</td>
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<td>Proposed timeline: Include start and completion date.</td>
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<td>Any additional comments:</td>
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A brief summary report (photos are encouraged) and all receipts of expenses will be due 60 days after the completion date.

For Office Use - Date Received: By whom:
The final 2018 3rd Saturday in the Zoo Garden held on September 22 was a great success. Many thanks to Sandra Wales for providing hands-on opportunities for “flower pounding”.

See next page for more Zoo Garden News.
Greetings from Rocky Mountain Park in Colorado. Fall is a wonderful time to see the Aspen trees in all their glory. Some interesting facts that I learned about this tree is they contain salicylic acid, which is the forerunner of aspirin, and the leaves were used as an anti-inflammatory for arthritis. The Europeans also used the bark to treat weakness and diarrhea. The history of the Aspen tree can be traced back to the Greek gods because Aspen wreaths were found in graves dating back to 5000 years ago in Mesoopotamia. People from all over the world visit the park in the fall just to get pictures of these amazing trees.

Another stop I would recommend is the Sandhill Crane Trust Nature And Visitors Center in Alda, Nebraska. We learned these amazing birds migrate in late February to early April. You can see over 500,000 sandhill cranes that are the world’s oldest living bird species. They feed in cornfields and wet meadows and the shallow water of the Platte River. They will continue their journey to Canada, Alaska and Siberia to breed. It was an interesting stop on the way to Colorado.

A reminder about the upcoming work day for the Weed Park Zoo Garden is Friday, October 19th from 1 to 3 pm. Thanks to Nichole from United Way for her help in arranging this date since I was out of town in September. Hope you can join us.

The last Saturday Coffee in 2018 that the Zoo Garden hosted was a great success. Sandra Wales from the Muscatine Garden Club demonstrated the ancient art of flower pounding. Everyone got to try making a design on a tote bag. We were all amazed how the technique transferred onto the fabric.
Fall is a perfect time to plant trees!

Muscatine Branching Out's
2018 Fall Tree Program is underway.

Applications are available now at the
Muscatine Power and Water Office
located at 3205 Cedar St.

Questions?
Call Phyllis at 263-5959
Email mavesing@hughes.net

Like Muscatine Branching Out on facebook
United Way Day of Caring
at Muscatine Church of Christ Donation Garden

Wednesday, September 26 was a beautiful sunny day for the United Way Day of Caring in Muscatine. An even dozen volunteers from CBI Bank and Trust came to our donation garden to provide assistance for our fall cleanup. They first tackled a fence rebuilding and painting job — finished it in record time so also painted the garden shed. Then they cleaned up the remnants of the summer garden. Thanks so much!!!
Guided group tours are available daily.

To request a tour, call 515-795-3216.

For more information, visit iowaarboretum.org

Small Group-$50
(20 or less)
Large Group-$100
(21 or more)

1875 Peach Avenue
Madrid, Iowa
Backyard Forest Conference
Saturday, October 6, 2018

Johnson County ISU Extension Office 3109 Old Hwy 218 S. Iowa City, IA
8:30 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Topics include:
- Trees and Shrubs for Pollinators
- Chainsaw Safety and Felling
- Invasive Species and Management
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Planting Trees and Shrubs
- Backyard Food Crops
- Backyard Woodland Wildlife
- Establishing Tree Seedling Pocket Plantings
- Woodland Prescribed Fire
- Woodland Health and Basic Tree ID

Conference includes workshops and a 2-hour walk through Ryerson Woods.
Registration fee is $15 and includes lunch and materials. Please register by October 1.

Registration: www.treesforever.org/BackyardForest

Partners: Trees Forever, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service
For more information: Aaron Brewer, abrewer@treesforever.org, 319-373-0650 ext. 114

Funding for this program is provided by:

Trees Forever - 770 7th Avenue - Marion, IA 52302
(319) 373-0650 • www.treesforever.org

Trees Forever Members and
Holloway Family Environmental Trust
There are a few new tree projects occurring in West Liberty this year that all will see when walking around the heritage trail as well as the fairgrounds. Trees are the basic element that were here before settlement. Many were destroyed during civilization advancement. Many landowners are planting new trees for various reasons; windbreaks, beauty, lowering utility bills and more. Trees are the basic element of the landscape. They set the stage for the entire home grounds design. The type used, and their location determine to a great extent what other plantings are appropriate, such as shrubs and flowers.

Trees are the most permanent plants we grow. Many will live and enhance the landscape for 100 or more years if they are given a chance. Because of the permanency of trees and their importance in the landscape, care must be taken to select the best species for each situation. The wrong tree or one planted in the wrong spot can actually detract from the overall landscape. Five to 10 years of precious tree growing time may be lost before the mistake is realized.

How to choose trees

No species or variety of tree is sufficiently superior to be called "best" without some qualifications. However, there are many excellent varieties. Choosing a variety with the characteristics that will provide the greatest satisfaction in a given situation requires careful consideration.

Most property owners make the mistake of deciding what kind of tree they want and then trying to fit it into their landscape. A more positive approach is to decide where a tree is needed and what that tree should do in the landscape. After the desired type of tree has been determined, then it is much easier to select a species to fulfill these requirements.

Avoid trees that are susceptible to storm damage, ones that are hosts to de-

(Continued next page, TREES)
structive insect and disease pests and those that produce an overabundance of objectionable seed or fruit. The choice will generally depend on existing conditions at the planting site. These include room for top and root growth, soil type, subsurface drainage and kind of plants you want to grow under the tree.

A tree is a long-term investment. Therefore, start with a high-quality plant. Trees 8 to 10 feet tall, either balled and burlapped or growing in containers, are usually the best buy.

This is because the nursery took time to harvest, prepare the roots, water the trees, and keep the tree in good condition for sale. Species that are difficult to transplant may be more easily established if you start with smaller sizes. A reputable nursery will usually help select the tree and will guarantee it to be alive and healthy for a period of one year after the sale.

Trees within West Liberty – Phase 1

In accordance with the Heritage Foundation’s master plan, Rotary Club of West Liberty is able to assist in placing some trees along the heritage trail that will provide shade on the trail as well as provide long term growth, which the Heritage Foundation agrees with and asked that the trees that were selected, align with long term goals for the foundation.

The Rotary Club of West Liberty held a fundraiser at the July Picnic in the Park this year where they had signs at the event stating that all profits would go for shade trees along the Heritage trail. They were able to fund 4 trees to be selected and planted along the Heritage trail in West Liberty. In addition to the Rotary trees, two additional trees were purchased to be placed both along the trail and on the campus.

The first tree that Rotary selected was the Frontier Elm. It was selected because it has good resistance to Dutch elm disease (DED) and elm yellows and has moderate resistance to elm leaf beetle. This hardy, tolerant tree is a good choice for residential landscapes and along city streets.

It will also provide great shade as it grows. The second tree that was selected was the Bloodgood Planetree, which is a hybrid cross between American Sycamore (*P. occidentalis*) and Oriental Planetree (*P. orientalis*). The Bloodgood Planetree will also be great along the trail for shade. The third tree chosen was the Kentucky Coffee

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

Tree is a deciduous, ornamental tree with unique features. Plant one in your front or side yard for a lovely shade tree that offers a splash of spring and fall color. It will even be a great conversation-starter with friends and neighbors when the “coffee” pods appear in autumn. The fourth tree selected was the Street Keeper Honeylocust. An ideal tree for city streets, this cultivar boasts the tight narrow form that has long been lacking in the urban tolerant honeylocust. The ascending branch structure gives Street Keeper a canopy that is only half as wide as other cultivars.

Two additional trees will be planted. One is a tree that was originally located near the carousel and died, and Lyle and Betty Zimmerman are replacing that tree. The Zimmerman family spent many hours refurbishing the old carousel that was in Weed Park in Muscatine. Brandywine Maple is an excellent choice for landscaping projects and looks fantastic as it grows and matures. It provides a bright and vibrant color during the fall months as the leaves begin to change to red, orange and yellow. It also looks fantastic during the spring and summer and makes a beautiful shade tree. The other tree is donated for a local loved family member and is a Tuliptree tree. The tuliptree is one of the largest native trees in North America. It is a member of the magnolia family and has distinct tulip-shaped characteristic in its leaves, flowers, and fruit. The showy, goblet-shaped, orange-yellow-green flowers appear in late spring after the leaves; the cone-like seed clusters sit upright on the branches. The golden-yellow fall color of the tulip-tree makes this an excellent choice for Heritage Foundation along the trail and is also a pollinator tree.

These trees will make a striking change to the landscape at Heritage Trail providing both goals of shade and integrating these trees within the pollinator project that is currently being worked on starting. While these trees were planted in September, the Muscatine County Fair has initiated a tree replacement project where 100 new trees will be planted in the next few years. This project was announced in late June and to date, funds have been raised for the first 36 trees to be planted in 2018. If interested in making a donation to plant a tree or help plant a tree please contact William Koellner either at 319-631-9783 or whkoell1943@gmail.com.

More information will be made in a later article regarding trees for the Fair so keep your eyes open!
October Gardening Guide

Plant mums, bulbs and more

-- Brighten your deck, patio or garden with mums. Florist's mums aren't winter-hardy but are very tidy-looking with large flowers; they're perfect for pots. Garden mums are more wild-looking and will come back again next year.

-- Plant spring-blooming bulbs now. October is the best planting time for outdoor bulbs in the Midwest. Plant in clusters of eight, 10 or more -- not only because they look best that way, but also because it speeds planting and makes it easier for you to loosen and improve the soil by adding compost or sphagnum peat moss.

-- Force bulbs for winter blooms. If you can't wait till spring for a dose of tulips, daffodils or crocuses, pot up a batch of bulbs to "force" for late-winter indoor blooms. Forcing bulbs simply involves planting spring-blooming bulbs in pots, chilling them in the fridge, and then bringing them out in January and February.

-- Transplant. In the southern half of the Midwest, October is a good time to divide and plant most perennials and roses. Plant trees and shrubs throughout the entire Midwest, but keep them well-watered if the fall is dry.

Rake and Water

-- Keep raking. Leaves shouldn't collect for more than a few days on lawns because they'll suffocate grass. Don't worry, though, about leaves around shrubs and perennials; they'll provide protection.

-- Try a compost pit. If you have room, this is a good way to deal with all those fallen leaves. Just dig a big hole in an out-of-the-way place, such as behind a fence or some large shrubs. Fill with all the leaves you've been collecting, then top with the displaced soil when you're done.

(Courtesy of Midwest Gardening)

http://www.midwestliving.com/garden/midwest-calendar/
(continued from previous page, GUIDE)

-- Water. If the fall has been especially dry, continue to water, paying special attention to new plantings. Even if there has been a light frost, plants still need adequate moisture. Otherwise, plants might become dehydrated and stressed by winter -- and more likely to die out by spring.

Prepare for Frost

-- Watch for frost. In all but the northernmost Midwest states, the first average frost tends to be mid- to late October. Cover annuals and other tender plants for the first few frosts so you can enjoy them as long as possible.

-- Store tender bulbs. After the first frost, dig up tender bulbs, such as gladiolus, canna, dahlias and caladiums, that won't survive the winter. Store them indoors in a cardboard box or paper bag filled with sawdust or other dry, loose material. This will let them "breathe".

-- Clean up 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.

Enjoy Your Last Vegetables and Herbs

-- Harvest herbs. Cut herbs before the first frost, put in jars of water and cover with a plastic bag. Change water every few days. They'll keep for weeks.

-- Pick tomatoes before it freezes. Right before the first frost, pick tomatoes green to bring indoors and use in recipes calling for green tomatoes. Otherwise, tomatoes should be harvested when about three-quarters ripe.

-- Deal with diseased plants. As annual produce plants such as tomatoes start to get overwhelmed with pest problems, tear them out and dispose of them.
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 couple unrelated scenes from our garden this fall. In the right photo several insects are making a good meal from a milkweed pod.
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.

*************** 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. *
* *
*************** Member Survey ***************

** Member Survey **
for the
** Future of Muscatine **
** Master Gardeners **

The Master Gardener Board is seeking feedback
to help guide our organization – please take a
moment to take this member survey and share
your input! The board will review this anony-
mous feedback and share some themes with
our members.
https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_em0mBw9v46q6O7b

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 —