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# MUSSER JAPANESE GARDEN

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## 7. The Muscatine Garden Club

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021  
by Beth Cody

This paper is the seventh in a series of research papers written for the Muscatine Art Center in Summer 2021 by Beth Cody of Kalona, Iowa, through a grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs in conjunction with a planned project for restoring the circa-1930 Japanese-style garden on the Art Center grounds. That garden was built for Laura Musser McColm (1877-1964), whose heirs donated her Muscatine house to the City of Muscatine in 1965 for use as a museum.

This research is intended to place the construction of such a garden into context of the period from roughly 1890 until World War II: How did Japanese-style gardens become popular in the Midwestern United States during that period? What other Japanese-style public and private gardens were constructed during that time, particularly in the Midwest? How did Midwesterners regard such gardens, and how did their feelings change during WWII when the United States was at war with Japan? And what things might have prompted Laura Musser McColm to have such a garden constructed for her around 1930?

Paper 1: Introduction of Japanese-Style Gardens to the Midwest through World's Fairs, 1876-1934

Paper 2: Books, Magazine Articles and Iowa Newspaper Articles about Japanese Gardens, 1890-1935

Paper 3: Pre-WWII Public Japanese-style Gardens

Paper 4: Pre-WWII Private Japanese-style Gardens in the Midwest

Paper 5: Professor P.H. Elwood's 1929 Trip to Japan

Paper 6: Laura Musser McColm's Japanese-style Garden; Possible Designer-Builders

Paper 7: The Muscatine Garden Club

Paper 8: Changing Attitudes to Japan Before and During WWII; Surviving Pre-WWII Japanese-style Gardens in the Midwest

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## The Establishment of Garden Clubs in Iowa

Gardening enjoyed great popularity during the 1920s, due to increased prosperity, and was encouraged by the increased availability of seeds, new plants and better equipment, as well as lower-cost publishing of illustrated gardening books and popular gardening magazines such as *Better Homes & Gardens*, which by 1927 was referring to “the phenomenal recent increase in home gardening.”

In response, groups of women who were interested in gardening and improving public areas began to form gardening groups. These generally had three aims: socializing, opportunities to learn more about gardening and to visit gardens, and working to beautify public areas of towns and cities.

These garden clubs differed from earlier horticultural societies, which had had a more scientific focus. The first social garden club was established in Athens, Georgia in 1891, followed by the Philadelphia Garden Club in 1904.

In Iowa, the first garden clubs to be established were the Des Moines Garden Club and the Tri-City Garden Club (Davenport, and Moline and Rock Island, Illinois), both established in 1919. Indianola had a garden club by 1923 and Ames by 1924.

By the late 1920s, there were at least 50 local garden clubs in Iowa. As *BHG* put it in 1927: “The garden club idea is ‘taking the country,’ there’s no doubt about it.”

### Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa

In 1924, Iowa State College in Ames held a three-day Garden Short Course, covering such topics as floriculture, vegetable gardening and landscaping. The course was so popular that it was repeated every year for at least sixteen years, until war threatened.

At the 1927 Garden Short Course in Ames, a number of the participants passed a resolution to form a statewide organization of garden clubs, and the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa (FGCI) was proposed and unanimously approved the following year at the 1928 Short Course. The FGCI had 34 member clubs in 1929, 65 in 1930, and 83 by 1932 — with at least 3,000 club members in all the affiliated Iowa garden clubs.

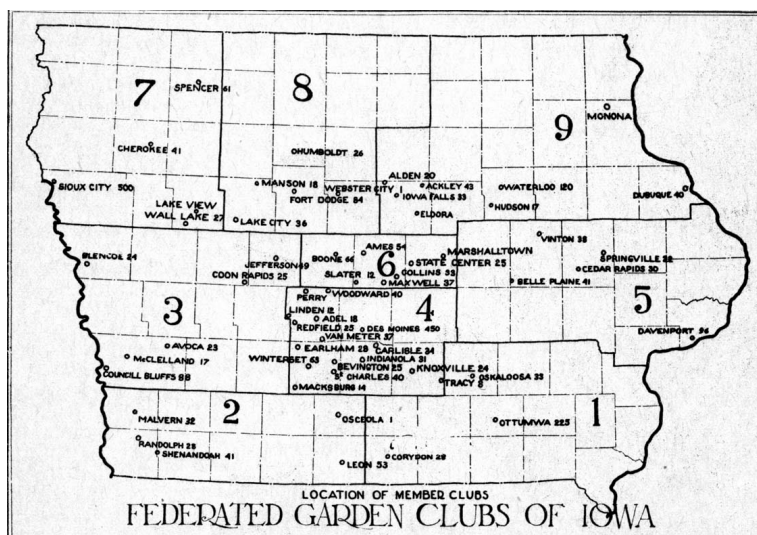
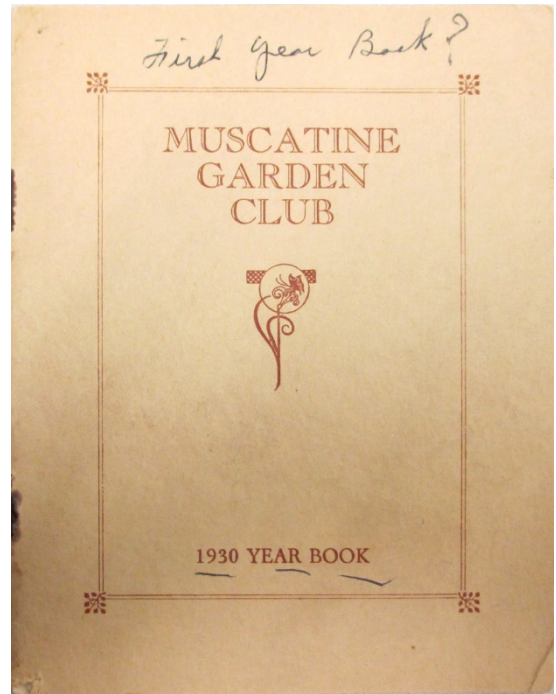


Figure 1: A circa-1930 map showing the garden clubs in the FGCI. The Muscatine Garden Club joined the federation in 1932. (*Report of the Iowa State Horticultural Society, 1931; State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City.*)



## The Muscatine Garden Club

The Muscatine Garden Club was established in 1928, according to an inscription in the Club's first yearbook for 1929-1930 (held at the Iowa Women's Archives at the University of Iowa Main Library). Publicly announced meetings do not seem to have taken place until spring of 1929, however.



**Figure 2: The front cover of the first Muscatine Garden Club Yearbook, 1930.**  
(Iowa Women's Archives)



**Figure 3: The dedication page of the 1930 Muscatine Garden Club Yearbook.** (Iowa Women's Archives)

## Prior Muscatine Garden Clubs:

At least two other attempts to establish garden clubs had been made in Muscatine before 1928: In 1916, a Muscatine Garden Club group had been briefly established for youth, for growing vegetables and flowers for local exhibit. And a *Muscatine Journal* article in September 1921 had this article:

### September 30, 1921: GARDEN CLUB TO BE REORGANIZED

Reorganization of the Muscatine Garden club will be effected at a meeting of former members with the Tri-City Garden club, to be held here October 11. It is planned to pattern the local organization after the tri-city body, and affiliate with the National Farm and Garden association. Former members and others interested in the work are promoting the club.

The members of the Tri-City Garden club will come to Muscatine on Tuesday, October 11, to meet here at the invitation of the dahlia specialist, Miss Hallie Conkling, at her dahlia farm, 1310 James Place, near Weed park. The meeting will open at 2:30 o'clock, and Miss Conkling will speak to the club on "Dahlias and Dahlia Culture." She will demonstrate her talk with specimens of her own flowers. The local members will meet jointly with the visiting club.

A large delegation from the tri-cities is expected, many to come by cars and others on the interurban.

Miss Conklin has one of the largest and most unique dahlia farms in this section of the country, and is recognized as an authority on dahlia cultivation.

However, only ten days later, this article was published, which indicated there was insufficient interest in forming a garden club locally:

### November 9, 1921: Gardeners of City Enroll in National Club at Davenport

Several Muscatine gardeners were enrolled in the National Farm Garden Association special meeting in Davenport Tuesday afternoon. Attendance of local gardeners at the meeting was limited because of poor road conditions.

Re-organization of the Muscatine Garden club planned for Tuesday will be delayed indefinitely, Miss Hallie Conklin announced today. As soon as a sufficient number has been enrolled in the national association a local auxiliary will be formed.

An address by Mrs. Frances King of Alma, Mich., president of the National Farm and Garden association, was given before a crowded house at Davenport Tuesday. Mrs. King told of the cultivation of her garden at Alma, one of the beauty spots of the state. She spoke particularly of color combinations, illustrating her address with pictures taken during the past several years in her own garden.

Local people have been invited to attend sessions of the Tri-City Garden club held once each month.

A November 16, 1922, article stated that a group of Muscatine gardeners would attend two Tri-Cities Garden Club events in Davenport: A December 18<sup>th</sup> talk by the president of the American Iris Society, and a January 9<sup>th</sup> lecture by National Farm and Garden club president Mrs. Russell Tyson of Vermont, an illustrated lecture about Japanese gardens.

## Muscatine Garden Club No. 3

The third Garden Club – the one Mrs. McColm joined – got off to an active start, holding a number of regular meetings and several public events during its first year, which are detailed below. However, Mrs. McColm's name was not mentioned in connection with the Muscatine Garden Club until September of 1929.

All articles in this section are from the *Muscatine Journal*, unless otherwise noted.

The first mention of the Muscatine Garden Club appeared in the March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1929 issue, which contained this article:

### **Muscatine Garden Club To Hold Meeting Monday**

The Muscatine Garden club, a new organization being formed in Muscatine, has scheduled a study program for Monday afternoon, March 4, at the home of Mrs. D. L. Dugar, 516 Fairview avenue. The subject, "Garden Planning" will be presented. Officers and committees of the club will be announced later when the organization is perfected.

In 1938, the history of the establishment of the club was published in the *Muscatine Journal*. The December 30, 1938 article will be given here in full:

### **Pioneer Influences for Garden Club Recounted**

Pioneer influences leading up to the present modern Garden club, with its 82 enthusiastic members and its far-reaching program of gardening endeavor, are interestingly recounted in the "Garden Club History," compiled by Miss Kate Funck, historian of the local group. The first organization fostering gardening in this county, of which the club has any knowledge, was the old Muscatine County Agricultural association of which the Hon. John Barnard was president for many years. This organization held a county fair annually, and was discontinued about 1890.

**Dr. Weed an Influence.** Also promoting the growth of nature-consciousness in the city was Dr. James Weed, whose love of nature and generosity in donating 60 acres to the city for a park is widely known, and Suel Foster, both of whom conducted nurseries here and were prominent in state horticultural circles.

Among the early friends of native wild plants were Fred Reppert, druggist, Prof. F. M. Witter and Miss Sarah Johnson, the latter two being in the public schools. Miss Johnson was an authority on native ferns, while Mr. Reppert and Prof. Witter were co-authors with Prof. Barnard of Davenport in compiling a book known as the "Native Flora of Muscatine and Scott Counties."

**Short-lived Club Started.** About 1915 there sprung up a short-lived Garden club of which E. L. Jayne was president. Her fine garden and love of flowers shed an influence over other Muscatine gardens, and her interest extended to the present Garden club although she lived on the coast when it was organized. Miss S. L. Horton was another Muscatine resident who had a lovely garden.

Changes came about rapidly and after a few months the club was discontinued. But its influence continued until it culminated in the starting of the present club in this manner

In the spring of 1927 Miss Winifred Giesler informed Mrs. George Hermann, Jr. (now deceased) and Mrs. W. S. Conkling that the garden department of the Fortnightly club at Washington Ia wanted two judges for its annual flower show, and urged them go. What was seen and learned there made them wish for a garden club in Muscatine, so much that they asked a few people interested in gardening to meet at the home of Mrs. Hermann to discuss the possibilities. This meeting resulted in the election of the following officers for the ensuing year:

**New Club Is Organized.** President, Mrs. George Hermann, Jr.; first vice president, Miss Winifred Giesler; second vice president, Mrs. J. F Hill; secretary and treasurer, Mrs, A. J. Altekruze.

In April it was decided to close the charter with 27 members. A voting contest in The Journal for the selection of a city flower resulted in the selection of the zinnia, which was officially proclaimed by Herbert Thompson, then mayor. The J. E. Hoopes company offered to raise and clean the seeds—the club to gather, dry, and distribute them.

The first flower show, held on June 4, 1929, at the Municipal Light and Water building, was a huge success. Membership of the club at the close of its first year was 47.

**Past Presidents.** Women who have served as president during the years are: Mrs. Herman, 1929-1930; Mrs. W. S. Conkling, 1931-32; Mrs. A. L. Bryan, 1933-34; Mrs. Carl Rylander, 1935; Mrs. L. C. Kautz. 1935; Mrs. F. M. Ziegler, 1936-37; and Mrs. Charles Opel, 1937-38.

Members of the club keep well informed on all up-to-date ideas in gardening through visits to flower shows in other cities, including Chicago by entertaining visiting speakers, and by extensive reading on all garden subjects. Their spring and fall flower shows are colorful events, visited by hundreds of people twice annually. At Christmas time an exhibit of holiday decorations was held.

**Wild Flower Preserve.** Among the club's projects are highway beautification and the wild flower preserve, the latter being a spot of beauty in Muscatine's Weed park.

Years before the Garden club was thought of, members of the park commission and members of the present club were deploring the disappearance of many native Iowa wildflowers that formerly grew in abundance on the hillsides now included in Weed park.

When the club was organized this was talked of, but thought to be beyond possibility of accomplishment. However, perserverance won out and many plants were transferred to the plot and cared for. The rock garden, located in the preserve, is another project.



## 1929 Muscatine Garden Club Activities

### March 5: GARDEN CLUB TOPICS ARE PRESENTED WHEN NEW CLUB MEETS AT DULGAR HOME

Several interesting talks and papers on the general theme of "Garden Planning" were presented Monday afternoon when the Muscatine Garden club, recently organized, held a study meeting at the home of Mrs. D. L. Dulgar, 516 Fairview avenue.

Officers and committees who will serve for the first year are:

Mrs. George H Hermann, Jr., president; Miss Winifred Giesler, first vice president; Mrs. J. F. Hill, second vice president; Mrs. A. J. Altekruze, secretary and treasurer.

Program committee. Mrs. W. S. Conklin, chairman. Mrs. D. L. Dulgar, Mrs. E. C. Nichols, Mrs. Raymond Titus.

Press, Mrs. J. F. Hill, chairman. Mrs. Miss Lettice Kennedy, Mrs. J. W. Stiers.

Exchange, Mrs. F. M. Ziegler, chairman.

Exhibition, Mrs. Frank F. Giesler, chairman.

On the general theme of garden planning, Mrs. T. I. Wigim presented the subject, "Location Sunny and Exposed Positions," and Mrs. A. J. Altekruze the subject, "Shady and Protected Positions." Under the topic, "Lay of the Land," Mrs. L. L. Richards discussed "Land Sloping and Terraced and Formal Borders," and Mrs. F. W. Eversmeyer presented, "Gardens Sunken and Formal." "The Secluded and Open Garden," was discussed by Mrs. J. F. Hill, "Shrubs, Dark Brown, Green and Colors," by Mrs. W. H. Crozer; "Tall and Low Shrubs for Borders and Foundation," by Mrs. E. C. Nichols; and "The Landscape Value of Trees," by Mrs. George H. Hermann, Jr.

### March 15: MUSCATINE GARDEN CLUB WILL MEET AT Y. MONDAY.

Two subjects will be presented, "The Hotbeds" and "Cold Frames," when the Muscatine Garden club holds a meeting Monday afternoon at the Y. W. parlors. The program will open at 2 o'clock. A committee of members will present the subject from various angles.

### March 29: GARDEN CLUB TO SPONSOR ILLUSTRATED LECTURE SOON

Arrangements for a lecture on landscaping, illustrated by slides, which will be given soon, will be considered by members of the Muscatine Garden club at a meeting at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon at the Y. W. C. A. The lecture will be open to the public.

The program arranged for Monday will include discussions of "Caring for the Seedling Plant" and "The Planting of Shipped in Plants."

### April 2: PLANTS DISCUSSED WHEN GARDEN CLUB CONVENES

Papers dealing with the planting of seeds and plants were presented and the garden lecture to be given at the First Congregational church; Friday evening was planned when members of the Muscatine Garden club met in the Y. W. parlors Monday afternoon. The meeting was one of the bi-weekly series arranged by the club.

Mrs. S.G. Stein read a paper on "The Annual Planting of Seed." Mrs. W. E. Downer gave a paper on "Perennial Plants – How to Plant, the Kind to Plant and Groupings." Miss Winifred Giesler discussed the transplanting of plants and the care of the shipped plants.

The club will hold; its next meeting April 15 at the Y. W.

#### April 2: Garden Lecture Will be Offered Friday Evening

Sixty colored slides, made from actual photographs of homes and gardens, will be shown when a garden lecture is presented at the First Congregational church at 7:45 Friday evening under the auspices of the Muscatine Garden Club. It is the first public meeting scheduled by the club, which was instituted here several weeks ago. It will be open to all persons interested in gardens and homes, without charge, but a silver offering will be taken. The lecture will be read by the Rev. William Hainsworth, pastor of the church.

Suggestions given in the lecture will be applicable to all types of homes and gardens.

#### April 16: ENDORSED BY GARDEN CLUB: Civic Beautification Through Clean Up, Paint Up, Plant Up, Drive Outlined.

Plans for a local community drive, a city "spring housecleaning," were made by the Muscatine Garden club at a business meeting at the Y. W. C. A. Monday afternoon, and the entire city is invited to participate in a cleanup-paintup week, to be observed the week starting next Monday, which also marks the observance of National Garden week.

The observance of cleanup-paintup week is a national one, with 7,000 cities in this country having joined in its observance....

#### April 27: ZINNIA NAMED IN ELECTION AS MUSCATINE'S OFFICIAL FLOWER: All Who Voted To Receive Seed Garden Club Sponsored Election – Clean Up Week Ends

##### FINAL STANDING:

Zinnia 90; Aster 58; Hollyhock 41; Phlox 40; Petunia 33; Larkspur 26; Nasturtium 25; Marigold 14; Bachelor Button 4.

The zinnia is Muscatine's official flower, elected by a plurality over the eight other flowers that were nominated in the election conducted by the Muscatine Garden club during Clean Up, Paint Up, Plant Up week, which ends today. The contest closed Thursday.

Three hundred and thirty-four votes were cast in the election. This is considered a satisfactory number in view of the unique character of the election and the lack of widespread public interest in the question at this time....

To Receive Free Seed: Every person who voted will receive a free package of zinnia seed from the Garden club. This seed will be mailed out soon to the address given on the ballots. The Garden club supervised the contest and a committee of its members counted the ballots. The club now will sponsor an increased planting of the zinnia, and the flower will be used on all appropriate official occasions.

The Muscatine State bank will open a special class for zinnias in its flower show late in the summer, offering special prizes for the best specimens of the official flower.

#### May 17: GARDEN CLUB PLANS TO EXHIBIT FLOWERS MONDAY

Members of the Muscatine Garden club will bring a basket of flowers, grown in their own garden, to the club meeting Monday afternoon. Presentation of the flowers will be a part of the program to be given, the meeting to be in the Y. W. parlors, starting at 2 o'clock. The majority of members are planning to go to New Era Sunday evening to attend the illustrated lecture by Mrs. Giles Sharpley of Davenport. The song service will start at 7.30 and the address at 8:15.

#### June 4: GARDEN CLUB'S FIRST FLOWER SHOW BRINGS OUT VARIETY OF EXHIBITS: ANNOUNCE WINNERS

Flowers in profusion were exhibited in the lobby of the city water and light administration building today, the occasion being the first flower show of the year sponsored by the Muscatine Garden club.

Exhibits were arranged before noon, and awards in three divisions announced early this afternoon. The exhibits will remain on display until 8 o'clock this evening.

Crowds of flower lovers viewed the exhibits this afternoon, and more are expected to see the displays this evening.

Judges for the show were selected by the Muscatine State bank, which with the Muscatine Garden club, is backing flower growing in this community

Prize-Winners....

#### July 1: GARDEN CLUB POSTPONES ITS TRIP TO TRI-CITIES.

Because of bad weather conditions the Muscatine Garden club has postponed its proposed trip to Davenport and Moline today. Members of the club had planned to make the trip by automobile, visiting a number of the more beautiful gardens in the two cities.

The first record of Mrs. McColm's involvement with the Muscatine Garden Club was the announcement that she would be hosting the first meeting after the summer break that the club took due to the heat:

#### September 13: **GARDEN CLUB TO VISIT M'COLM GARDENS MONDAY**

The Muscatine Garden club will resume regular session at 2:30 Monday afternoon with a meeting at the Y. W. C. A. Following the presentation of the subject, "Fall Planting and Dahlias," the members will go to the E. L McColm gardens.

A pep meeting is announced and all members requested to attend.

Only one more meeting was held in 1929: one in early October to discuss fall planting and other timely topics, held at the Y.W.C.A.

## 1930 Muscatine Garden Club Activities

The Muscatine Garden held numerous meetings and activities in 1930. A listing of them follows, by date they were announced in the *Muscatine Journal*:

January 21: Discussion of the evergreen and its part in landscaping  
February 4: Discussion of seed catalogs  
April 5: Selection of flower seeds and other club business  
April 19: A study of landscaping; a demonstration on budding, grafting and cutting of shrubs; and a talk on shrubs  
May 2: A book review: "Notes on Iris"; discussion of the flower show; followed by a visit to two members' gardens  
May 8: Visits to Cedar Rapids gardens  
May 8: Announcement of distribution of free zinnia seeds the following Saturday  
May 9: Films on gardening and flower arranging  
May 17: Discussion of the value of shrubs in the home grounds; plans for the June flower show  
May 17: Announcement of the 12 divisions for the flower show exhibits  
May 31: Presentation of a paper on roses and lilies  
June 14: Discussion of rose planting, followed by visit to various local rose gardens  
July 8: An outdoor meeting was held at Wild Cat Den state park, with D.S. Hubbell, Extension specialist giving a talk on the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, and soils and fertilizers  
Aug 2: A demonstration of pollination  
August 19: Discussion of landscaping, placing trees and plants around buildings; followed by planning for zinnia flower show  
September 5: Discussion of planting and transplanting of perennials; final planning of Fall Garden Show; plant exchange  
September 15: Fall Flower Show

Note: **Mrs. McColm won a first prize in the Class 1 Dahlia exhibition**

October 7: Discussion of fall and winter care of lawns, fertilizer and weed eradication

**October 17: Meeting held at Mrs. McColm's home;** A paper was presented on "Impressions of Foreign Gardens"

## 1931 Muscatine Garden Club Activities

February 24: Discussion of evergreens for home grounds  
March 9: Discussion of English gardens and spring bulbs

April 11: Public lecture illustrated by slide show on “Bulbs Throughout the Year”; free zinnia seeds given away

April 27: Study program on flower arranging and “rock, water and natural gardens”

April 30: Wildflower Fete and planting session at Weed Park

### **May 12, 1931: Garden Club Enjoys Tour of Jap(anese) Model**

Members of the Garden club studied the model Japanese garden of Mrs. E. L. McColm, Mulberry avenue, at their meeting Monday afternoon at the home. An article in the March issue of Country Life was read by Mrs. George Hermann, which interpreted the idea of a Jap(anese) garden. In planting a garden, the Japanese bring out a motive, each flower representing an idea, so that when in bloom, both a picture and story are presented.

The Jap(anese) rock garden at the McColm home was carried out the true Jap(anese) motif. There are the four pools, three waterfalls, and a stream meandering for 75 feet.

The garden, started last year, is at its full glory now, with the iris in bloom, and the flowers and shrubbery grown among the rocks to make a woodland scene. Even the bridges crossing the waterfalls and stream are representative. The stone lanterns are of Jap(anese) make. The tour of the garden was highly interesting and pictorial, in view of the study of the club.

May 22: A study of iris, with members bringing their own blooms; followed by a tour of Parkway Iris Gardens in Davenport

June 3: June Flower Show and display

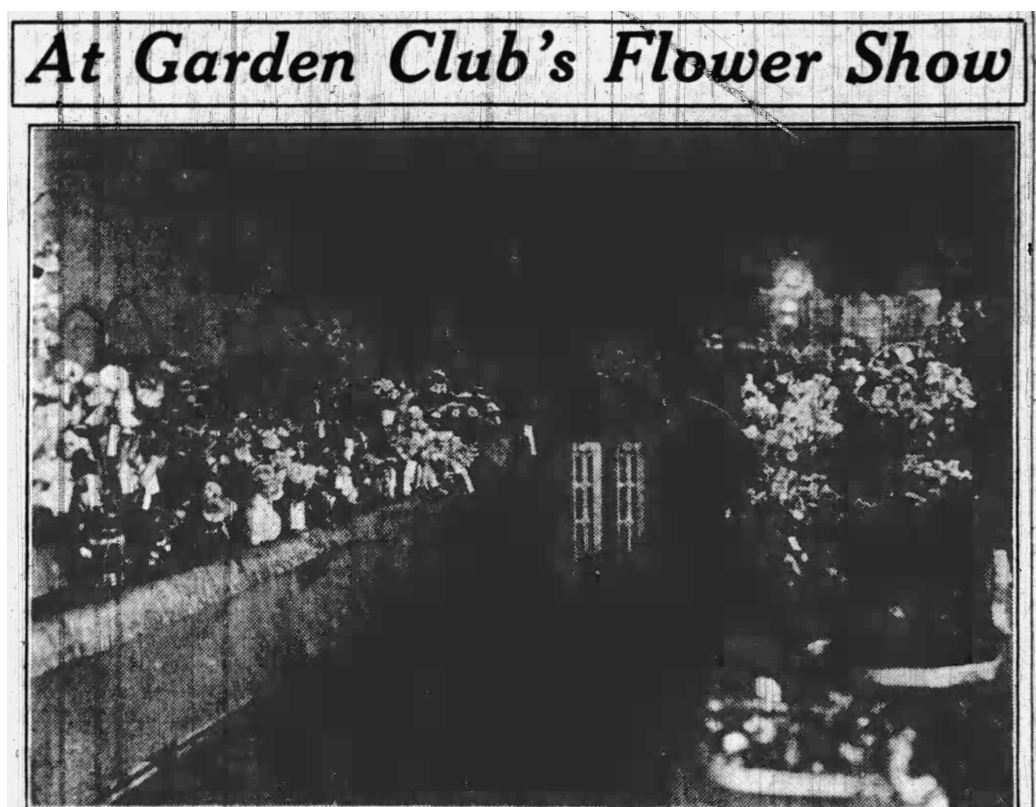


Figure 4: The 1931 Flower Show was captured in a photograph that, alas, is too dark to see many details in. (*Muscatine Journal*, June 4, 1931)



### **June 11: Garden Music Is Enjoyed at McColm Home**

The beautiful music room and gardens of Mr. E. L. McColm home, 1314 Mulberry avenue, offered a lovely setting for a Garden club program, "The Garden in Song," an event of Friday afternoon.

An organ and piano duet entitled "Rhapsody," played by Mrs. Wanda Schwarts at the organ and Mrs. J. R. Gibson at the piano was the opening number. Miss Elsa Fack, accompanied by Miss Eda Critz at the piano, sang a group of four appropriate selections, "Rose in the Bud," "Garden of Your Heart," "Violet," and "Thank God for the Garden."

Two little fairies in the persons of Mary Ann Block and Margaret Roach entertained the guests with toe dances, Mrs. Gibson playing the piano accompaniment.

Mrs. McColm's singing of "Do You Know My Garden?" "Little Rose of May," and "Trees," accompanied by Mrs. Schwarts on the organ, was one of the outstanding features of the afternoon program.

September 16: Fall Flower Show

November 9: Discussion of "Old Fashioned Gardens" and "Colonial Gardens"; election of new officers

November 23: Last meeting of year led by new club president Mrs. W.S. Conkling; pottery exhibit; discussion of printing of club yearbook.

## 1932 Muscatine Garden Club Activities

January 11: Discussion of new rock garden to be added to Weed Park; talk on the origin of plant names



**Figure 5:** A 1936 photo of Muscatine Garden Club women in the Weed Park rock garden and wildflower preserve, identified as follows: "Mrs. Charles Opel, chairman of the wild-flower preserve committee for the coming year, Mrs. Elmus Richard, chairman of the civic committee, Mrs. Fred M. Ziegler, Garden club president, Mrs. Archie Adams; who served as chairman of the preserve committee last year, Mrs. Roy Kuebler and Mrs. Louis Kautz." (*Muscatine Journal*, December 30, 1936)

January 25: The Tri-City Garden club invited the Muscatine club to hear a lecture by Dr. Horace McFarland, noted American rose authority, who will speak at the Davenport Outing club. He will speak on gardens, showing slides.

Jan. 25: "What's New—From the Catalogs," catalog exhibit, Mrs. Frank Eitman. Each member requested to bring her favorite seed catalog. "Glass Gardens," Mrs. George H. Hermann, Jr.

Feb. 8: Library auditorium. "Unusual Shrubs for the Home Grounds. Pruning Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Vines," speakers to be announced. Arrangement of Bare Twigs—Forced Branches."

Feb. 22: Washington Tea, Mt. Vernon, organized at the Old Ladies Home by Mrs. E.L. McColm. "The Gardens," Mrs. A. L. Bryan; "The Home," Mrs. Emerson.

March 7: Home of Mrs. F. Webster. "The Garden in Poetry," Mrs. Howard Bartlett.

March 21: "The Queen of the Azure Garden," Mrs. Nellie Robertson; distribution of lists of plants for color gardens.

April 11: Library auditorium. "The Lovelier Lilacs," Miss Kate Funck; "The Priceless Peony," Mrs. Fred Van Zyl.

April 25: Library auditorium. "Flower Enemies and Their Control," speaker to be announced; exhibit of seasonal bloom; plant exchange

May 9: Weed park. Spring planting; outdoor luncheon.

May 23: Mrs. E. L. McColm, hostess. "The Garden in Song," Mrs. E. L. McColm. Miss Elsa Fack.

June 6: "Picking and Arranging Flowers," "Keeping Them Fresh," "First Aid to Wilted Flowers," Miss Winifred Giesler, Mrs. F. M. Ziegler, Miss Carmelite Madden.

June 20: Home of Mrs. H. C. Eschbach. "Roses New and Old," Mrs. Webster Hakes; book review, "Garden Cinderellas," Mrs. S. G. Stein.

July 11: Annual outing, to Wildcat Den Park

July 18: Home of Mrs. E. W. Smith. "Planting for Fragrance," Miss Pauline Van Dam; "The All White Bouquet," Mrs. M. P. Bomke; exhibit by members.

Aug. 8: Home of Mrs. F. M. Ziegler. "Garden Pools," Mrs. A. J. Greiner; round table discussion of water plants.

Aug. 22: Home of Mrs. Bartlett. "The Garden in Story," Mrs. W. A. Hill, Mrs. A. J. Altekruze.

Sept. 12: Weed park. "Native Trees," Mrs. B. E. Eversmeyer.

Sept. 26: Greenwood gardens. "The Unusual Flower Arrangements"; exhibits by club members for criticism, judges to be announced. ("artistic Japanese arrangements" were discussed)

Oct. 10: Y. W. C. A. "Bulbs for Winter Bloom Indoors," Mrs. George Hermann.

Oct. 24: "The Garden in Pictures," Mrs. Maynard Thompson.

Nov. 7: Annual meeting; election of officers; dues payable. Mrs. A.L. Bryan elected new club president

Nov. 21: Y. W. C. A. "Herbs in Cookery," Mrs. A. C. Eschbach; "Arrangement of Fruit and Vegetables for Holiday Tables," Mrs. Frank Mucha, Mrs. H. Asthalter.

Year's Activities:

April: Rock garden and hillside plantings at Weed park; distribution of zinnia seed; Arbor day, tree planting.

May: Wild flower planting, Weed park; visit to gardens.

June: Annual spring flower show, field trip to Davenport rock garden of Dr. F.B. James

July: Annual outing the Wildcat Den Park

August: Out-door meetings.

September: Woodland trips.

## 1933 Muscatine Garden Club Activities

The Muscatine Journal of January 9, 1933 announced the 1933 schedule for the club:

Attractive hand-painted yearbooks of the Muscatine Garden club enclose an interesting program of events for the coming year as arranged by the yearbook committee of which Mrs. A. J. Altekruise is chairman. The books were distributed among members of the club at a meeting this afternoon in the parlors of the Y. W. C. A.

Mrs. Carl E. Rylander will be the first to entertain this year in her home, 2516 Mulberry avenue. The flower, tree and shrub of the month will be studied in. talks by Mrs. W. E. Downer

on "Christmas Rose," by Mrs. F. Holzhauer on, "Evergreen," and by Mrs. F. Ziegler on the, topic, ; "Mt Laurel". Questions will be answered at the close of the meeting.

"Flats," is the main topic for the meeting Feb. 13 at the home of Mrs. H. C. Madden, 309 East Eighth street, with Mrs. E. Darrow speaking on "Construction," Mrs. George Hermann, Jr. on "Soil," and Mrs. H. C. Madden, on "Sowing and Care" followed by questions.

The subject for roll call is "Winter Birds Around My Home." At a meeting Feb. 27 with Mrs. A. J. Altekruise, 209 Parkington drive, the flower, tree and shrub of the month of February will be studied, with the following papers given: "Snowdrop." Mrs. S. G. Stein; "Oak," Mrs. K. Daut; Spring Viburnums," Mrs. E. L. Emerson. A display of blooming flowers win be a feature of the



**Figure 6:** The cover of the “attractive hand-painted yearbook” of the Muscatine Garden Club for 1933. (Iowa Women’s Archives)

afternoon. A round table discussion on catalogues will be conducted by Miss Kate Funck, and roll call will be answered by, "What New Flowers I Plan "to Plant This Year"

Two talks will be presented by Mrs. Alice Hill of Davenport on the subjects, "Garden Pictures, and "Soil," when the club meets March 13 at the home of the president. Mrs. A. L. Bryan, 1124 Mulberry avenue. Mrs. Hill will also conduct a Question Box. Specimens will be labeled at this time.

Miss Cornelia Rhynsburger, librarian at the P. M. Musser public library, will be in charge of a round table: discussion on "Library Books," at the meeting March 27 at the Y. W. C. A. The names of interesting books will be the roll call response, while the program will be on flowers, tree and shrubs of March, Mrs. E. W. Smith speaking on the primrose, Miss F. Mackey on the elm, and Mrs. W. S. Conkling on the forsythia. Forced branches will be displayed.

Soil cultivation and testing will be studied April 10 at the home of Mrs. D. L. Dulgar, 516 Fairview avenue, when papers will be given as follows: "Composition," Mrs. H. Bartlett; "Value of Humus," Mrs. W. H. Keating. Specimens of blooming flowers will be on display.

The violet, maple, and native shrub will be discussed in papers by Mrs. G. B. Samuels, Mrs. Henry Nyweide and Miss Harriet Smeenk respectively at a club meeting April 24 with Miss Smeenk as hostess. A special talk will be given by Rex Fesler. Roll call will be answered with 'An Item of Interest.' There will also be arrangements and collections of specimens.

How to make attractive window boxes will be told when the club meets May 8 at the home of Mrs. Maynard Thompson, 612 West Second street. Topics will be taken as follows: "Proportions," Mrs. F. Smith; "Soil," Mrs. U Fuller; "Arrangement," Mrs. M. Thompson; "Dahlias," Mrs. Dulgar; "Combinations for Window Boxes," will be the response to roll call. Specimens of tulips will be exhibited.

Arrangements of any named varieties will be shown at a meeting May 22 with Mrs. E. C. Nichols at her home, 421 Parkington drive. The daisy, apple, and lilac, which are the flower, tree and shrub of the month of May, will be subjects for papers by Mrs. R. E. Othmer, Mrs. N. Graham, and Mrs. E. B. Molla. "When It's Apple Blossom Time," will be sung by the club.

The Greenwood Gardens will be the meeting place for June 12 with a tour of the gardens as a feature of the day. Favorite lilies will be the response to roll call and papers will be given as follows: "Summer Bloom From Bulbs," Mrs. B. E. Eversmeyer; "Our Garden Show," Mrs. G. B. Samuels.

"The Linden Tree" will be sung by Mrs. E. L. McColm as a special number on the program June 26 at the home of Mrs. W. H. Crozer, 1211 Mulberry avenue. Favorite roses will be the roll call subject, while papers will be given by Mrs. J. Asthalter on trailing arbutis, by Mrs. A. C. Adams on the linden tree, and by Mrs. F. Shafnit on the honeysuckle. Arrangements for dining tables will be discussed.

A picnic at Weed park at which guest day will be observed is set for July 10.

Roll call will be responded to with "State Parks I Have visited" when the club is entertained July 26 by Mrs. A. J. Grelner at her home, 1315 Park drive. The regular study of the flower, tree and shrub of the month will be given in papers, "Water Lily," by Mrs. R. Kuebler; "Birch," by Miss Ida Mull; and "Syringa," by Mrs. F. Van Zyle.

D. V. Layton, a state extension specialist, will be the guest speaker at a meeting Aug. 14 at the home of Mrs. G. B. Samuels, 316 Cedar street. His subject will be "Romance of Weeds." Roll call will be answered by the name of a weed, and exhibits of common weeds will be shown.



Favorite authors of club members will be named during roll call when the club meets Aug. 28 at the Y. W. C. A. Papers will be given by Mrs. A. D. R. Howe on the poppy, by Mrs. George Reuling on the willow, and by Mrs. Clyde Rabedaux on the spiraea. Zinnia specimens will be on display.

"Insects" will be the general theme for study at a meeting Sept. 11 with Mrs. F. M. Ziegler, 811 Cedar street. Friendly insects will be described by Mrs. C. Opel and unfriendly ones by Mrs. Will Randall. Mrs. A. C. Eschbach will tell of fall blooming bulbs, and labeled specimens of arrangements and collection of zinnias will be on display. Roll call will be answered by, "A Combination I Have Had in My Garden."

The name of any state flower win be told in the roll call response on Sept. 25 when the club is a guest of Mrs. W. C. Conkling, 1310 James place. The goldenrod, sycamore and barberry, flower, tree and shrub of the month, will be discussed by Mrs. F. Eitman, Miss Elsa Fack, and Mrs. Harold Feustel and "My Wild 'Irish Rose,' will be sung by the club. Goldenrod specimens will be shown.

Mrs. S. G. Stein will be hostess at a meeting Oct. 9 in her home, 503 West Second street, when roll call will be answered by constructive and destructive criticism of the garden show. The lesson on L. H. Bailey will be given by Mrs. J. E. Hill.

"Gardening mistakes I shall not make another year," will be told in the roll call response for a meeting Oct. 23 at the home of Mrs. Fred Shafnit, 714 Iowa avenue. A round table discussion on house plants conducted, by Mrs. W. C. A. Busch will follow the presentation of three papers, "perennial aster," by Mrs. A. J. Greiner; "Walnut," by Mrs. George Hahn; and "Fall viburnums," by Mrs. A. H. Howe.

Election of officers and the paying of dues are on the schedule for Nov. 13 when the club meets at a place to be announced later. The final meeting of the year will be held Nov. 27 at the Y. W. C. A., when the flower, tree and shrub of the month will be described on the following papers "Mums," Mrs. M. P. Bomke: "Redwood," Mrs. W. A. Hill: "Witch Hazel," Mrs. L. C. Kautz.

## 1934 Garden Club Activities

The *Muscatine Journal* of January 5, 1934 announced this annual schedule of club activities:

### Series of Talks Arranged by Garden; Club on Study Course

Mrs. J. E. Hoopes of Muscatine, Iowa, master, farmer, will be the first of four speakers scheduled to address members of the Muscatine Garden club this winter, speaking at the opening meeting on the year Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Charles Nyenhuis, 417 West Fourth street. Mrs. Hoopes will talk on "The Development of a New Flower or Vegetable." Federation news will be discussed by Mrs. W. D. Randall. Other speakers and their topics which are announced, in new yearbooks, to be distributed to members at the meeting Monday, include

Findley B. Hoopes on "Fertilizers and Soil;" Dr. Kuno Struck of Davenport on "'What Do We Know of Our Feathered Friends" and Cart e. Rylxrder, Muscatine county farm .fnt on "Insecticides and Fungicides."

B. E. Eversmeyer served as chairman of the yearbook committee this year; Mrs. A. L. Bryan is again serving as president. The object of the Muscatine Garden club is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs and to aid in the protection of native trees, plants and birds, and to encourage civic planting. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, except December, at 2:30 p. m.

Question Box. The question box will be opened at each meeting, bringing discussion of questions of a miscellaneous nature. The exchange committee will give at each meeting a list of available material.

The second meeting of the year, on Jan. 22, will be held at the home of Mrs. Fred Shafnit, 714 Iowa avenue, with Mr. Hoopes as the speaker. Arrangements of flowerless twigs and evergreens win be discussed.

An invitation is extended to the public to attend the lecture by Dr. Struck of Davenport Feb. 12. The place is to be announced later. Federated news win be in charge of Mrs. W. N. Stolen.

Mrs. George Mark will be hostess at the meeting Feb. 26 at her home, 412 Cedar street, when Mr. Rylander will be the speaker. A review of the book, "Winter," will be given by Mrs. Frank Drake, and a display of forced bulbs shown.

The wildflower committee will show specimens of native flowers, club members will bring displays of spring flowers, Mrs. A. C Eachbach will give a book review on "Spring," and Mrs. Sherwood Samuels will tell of federation news, at a meeting March 12 at which Mrs. George Hermann, Jr. will be hostess.

Five Minute Talks. A series of five minute talks on the first flowers of spring will feature the meeting to be held March 26 at the home of Miss Anna Molls, 307 East Third street. The assigned topics are "Chionodoxa," Mrs. W. C A. Busch; "Crocus," Mrs. Kenneth Daut; "Grape Hyacinth," Mrs. Ralph Bloom; "Snowdrop," Mrs. "Wilbur Demorest; "Scilla," Mrs. William Geller; "Fritillaria," Mrs. Julius Gerndt; "Daffodil Surprises," Mrs. John Stocker; and "Friendly Companions," **Mrs. Laura McColm**. The display will be of flowering bulbs.

"Why We Do Not All Receive Blue Ribbons at Our Shows," will be the subject of a paper by Miss Edith Stocker at the meeting April 9 at the home of Mrs. Fannie Holzhauer, 516 Main street. Federated news will be given by Mrs. Charles Nyenhuis. The exhibit will be of seasonable blooms.

A. C. Hottes' opinion of a flower show will be presented by Mrs. Fred Shafnit when the club meets April 23 with Miss Ida Mull, 1323 Mulberry avenue. Mrs. D. L. Dulgar, who each summer has a special garden of dahlias, will read a paper on that flower. Specimens and arrangements will be shown.

Five minute talks on the theme, "Ten Weeks of Iris," will be given at a meeting May 14 with Miss Felicity Mackey, 920 West Third street, as follows: "Early," Mrs. W. A. Hill: 'Siberian," Mrs. C. L. Leu: 'German." Mrs. W. H. K. 'Native.' Mrs. Clifford Worst: "Japanese," Mrs. E. B. Molis: "Dutch and Spanish," Mrs. Mark. Mrs. Fred Van Zyl will tell about three iris hybridizers. Federated news will be given by Mrs. Harold Wiso, and arrangements and specimens shown.

Peonies Studied. The theme "Six Weeks of Peonies," will be developed in a series of five minute talks at a meeting to be held at the home of Mrs. C. E. Rylander, 2316 Mulberry avenue May 28. Mrs. Don Morris will speak on "The-Tree Variety"; Miss Ana Molis, "Fringed"; Miss Felicity Mackey on "Common"; and Mrs. W. H. McnrathL "Garden." A review of the book "Peonies in the Little Garden," will be presented by Mrs. F. M. Ziegler. Arrangements and specimens will be shown.

Roses will be the topic of discussion when the club is the guest of Mrs. W. A. Hill, 212 Mary place, on June 11. Mrs. a. C. Adams will tell how to plant them, how to prune and feed them and how to protect them from winter. Sho comments will be given by Mrs. George Hermann, Jr., federated news by Miss Ida Mull. Arrangements: and specimens will be shown.

W S. Blades will speak on landscape gardening when Mrs. Fay Hankins is hostess to the club June 25 at her home, 117 Lord avenue. Mrs. C. E. Rylander's topic will be "Garden of Green Salads."

Plan Garden Party. Garden togs will be worn to a novel garden party which the club will hold July 9 at a place to be announced later. A box lunch will be. served.

Mrs. George Jshring will entertain the club at her home, 304 East Fifth street, July 23. Plant life seen on a woodland trip will be described in five minute talks by Mm J. r. 1IU1. Miss Martha Heller and Mrs. I I C. Kautz, "Grey Leafed Plants," is the topic assigned to Mrs. W. S. Conkling. Federated news will be discussed by Mrs. H. Nyweide.

An outing at Wildcat Den state park, with a potluck luncheon, is on the schedule for Aug. 27.

Topics for the meeting Sept. 10, to be held at the home of Mrs. Fred M. Ziegler, 811 Cedar street, are "Rock Gardens," Mrs. Roy Kuebler; "Seed Pod Contest," Mrs. C. W. Opel and federated news by Mrs. John Stocker.

Two topics which should prove interesting will be given when the club meets Sept. 24 with Mrs. Leonard Fuller, 408 East Eighth street. They are "Getting Ready for the Winter Window Garden," by Miss Kate Funck, and "Over the Garden Gate," by Mrs. H. M. Bartlett and Mrs. Grace Samuels. Arrangements of fruits and vegetables will be shown.

The wild flower committee will be in charge at a meeting Oct. 8 with Mrs. Julius Gerndt at her home, 1611 Mulberry avenue. Mrs. Paul Schreurs will present federated news.

Study Mushrooms. A paper on "Mushrooms," by Mrs. Harry Bomke and a review of the book, "Autumn," by Mrs. Elizabeth Darrow, will feature the meeting Oct. 22 at the home of Mrs. W. N. Stirlen, 1118 Mulberry avenue.

The club president Mrs. A. L. Bryan, will be hostess at the annual meeting Nov. 12 at her home, 1124 Mulberry avenue. Mrs. H. C. Madden will give federated news.

Mrs. Frank Drake will be hostess at the final meeting of the year, Nov. 28, at her home, 1023 Iowa avenue. Mrs. Fay Hankins will tell "How to Grow Our Own Holly," Mrs. George Jehring will give suggestions for Christmas decorations, and Mrs. Arthur Howe suggestions for winter bouquets.

## 1935 Muscatine Garden Club Activities

The *Muscatine Journal* of March 12, 1935 had this interesting article:

### Gardens of Italy, Japan Are Described

Italian and Japanese gardens formed interesting themes for a meeting of the Muscatine Garden club, when Mrs. George Hahn entertained in her home, 900 West Third street, Monday afternoon.

Mrs. George Hermann spoke on the Italian gardens, how they are terraced and of the many statues in them. She said they were more luxurious than those of Japan.

Miss Edith Stocker drew on her experiences while in Japan in her talk on Japanese gardens. "The whole of Japan is a garden," she said, "and all Japanese are devoted flower lovers." She noted that there were not so many flowers in the gardens of Japan, but that they were featured by little bridges and dwarf trees.

During the business meeting a letter was read to the club from Mrs. A. R. Howe, a member who has been ill for some time. Plans were discussed for entering an exhibit at the Better Homes exposition at the Jefferson building March 19, 20, and 21.

Mrs. Charles Opel won the vase for the most beautiful arrangement of pussy willows.

The meeting in two weeks will be held in the home of Mrs. C. A. Edmonds, 1420 Mulberry avenue.

