Blades and Blooms

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Master Gardeners of Clark County
PO Box 158, Springfield, Ohio 45501-0158 Volume18 Number 12 December 11

Mark Your Calendar !

December

3	10 am-2 pm Holiday Decorations Workshop
5	10 am-2 pm OC & Staff Lunch
7	10-Noon Utzinger Wrap Up Mtg. 1-2 Herb Comm. Meeting
12	1-3 pm Tree Survey
16	10-12 Executive Board Noon Potluck 1-3 pm Board & All Chairs Mtg.
20	B&B Deadline
25	Merry Christmas
26	Office Closed Christmas Holiday Observed
27	Office Closed Christmas Holiday (President's Day observed)

January 2, 2012, Office Closed

Happy Birthday to...

Karen Duncan	1st
Toni Holcomb	2nd
Peter Wallace	2nd
Judy Wessel	14th
Pam Bennett	24th
Cindy Gootee	24th
John Eichelberger	25th
Sandi Birt	30th

President's Message:

I can't believe we are already heading into the holiday season! The weather has been great so far and has allowed me to pot up a few more plants.

Such a great banquet we had. Thank you Karen Neer and committee for all of your hard work coordinating the event. Congratulations to all of the award recipients . Our Master Gardeners of Clark County are the greatest!

If you haven't had time to plant any spring bulbs, you can still plant them outside as long as the ground is not frozen. Now is the time to see if there are any bargains left on spring bulbs. I like to try some that are new to me to see how they perform. The most important thing is saving the package so you know the name of the bulbs you really like when they come up. I must confess I have a few left to plant.

This year has really flown by fast for me. I am not going to enumerate all of our accomplishments, as there are many, but I would like to thank each and every one of you for your kind words and dedication to our organization. It would not have been possible without the dedication of our officer team of Cindy Schneider, Becky Menozzi, and John Eichelberger plus our Executive Committee. You all were great!

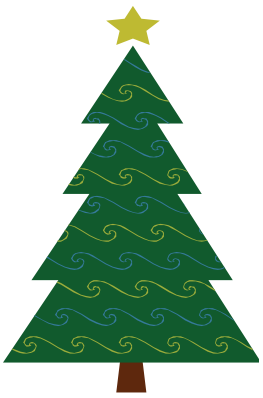
Congratulations to the new officer team of Cindy Schneider, Ron Kurth, Becky Menozzi and George Simon. Please give our new officer team the same cooperation and energy you gave me and help them in any way you can. We are expecting great things in 2012!

I hope all will welcome our new class of Master Gardeners and help make them feel a part of our organization. We will be requesting mentors for the new class soon.

I would like to wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season, Best Wishes, and A Very Merry Christmas.

Thanks for the many memories!
Ruth Ann Rahim

Pam's Posies



Dear Master Gardener Volunteers,

I can't believe that we are ending 2011 and getting ready for 2012! What a great year we have had too! I am so pleased with our progress this year. We met our goals for increasing the number of tours to our garden (we had 12) and we increased the number of people attending the Garden Jubilee (from 1,500 to 1,800). We still need to work on getting the word out and as I said in the last newsletter and will continue through next year, until this phrase is no more: "I didn't know this was back here!" Let's work together on getting the word out about the garden and what we have to offer the community!

In addition, the SEEDS Community Garden program underwent a name change and developed a new brochure that is outstanding! SEEDS stands for Sow, Educate, Edible, Diversity, and Share which is very appropriate to the community garden approach. We had more than 500 adults and more than 500 youth participate in these gardens. Between the community gardeners and our Victory Garden, we donated more than 7,000 pounds of produce to the 2nd Harvest Food Bank.

And to top everything off, you donated 11,564 hours of service to the Clark County community in a variety of projects. You are truly an awesome bunch of crazy volunteers and I love every minute working with you. You make my job fun, rewarding, and sometimes just plain outrageous and I thank you for that! Thank you from Ohio State University Extension for all that you do and contribute to make Clark County a better place to live.

Have a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends!
Pam

Pamela J. Bennett
State Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator
Extension Educator, Horticulture
Ohio State University Extension

TREE SURVEY TEAM MEETING RESCHEDULED

Unfortunately, I had a pretty bad cold and a severe case of laryngitis before Thanksgiving and had to postpone the tree survey wrap up meeting. I have rescheduled it for December 12 from 1-3:00 at the office. Don't forget that I have a special thank you gift for your participation.

FACEBOOK TRAINING

One of our outreach goals was to develop a Facebook page for our MGV program and we have completed this. However, one of our goals was also to have 250 Friends by the end of this year and we are quite short (only have 42 fans)! In order to get more MGVs statewide involved in Facebook, I am going to schedule several training sessions in January for County Coordinators first and then MGVs. We will go through setting up an account and privacy settings so that you can control who sees your posts. I would love for more of our MGVs to post information to our site- programs, what you are seeing in the landscape, photos of your garden, tips of the day, etc. The MGV Facebook training is scheduled for Jan. 12 at 10:00 a.m. and same thing again on Jan. 13 at 1:00 p.m. Details on tuning into this web-based training will come in late Dec.

Jo's Notes

Happy Holidays to all!!!

Thoughts and Prayers

Jane Malowney recovering from surgery. 5423 Fletcher Chapel Road, Springfield, OH 45502.

John Massie recovering from shoulder surgery. 1340 West Choctaw Drive, London, OH 43140.

Jim Hamilton, recovering from surgery. 4348 West Enon Drive, Enon, OH 45323.

New Email Addresses

Jody Frisby: frisby.9@gmail.com

Joan McLean: mclean3765@yahoo.com

Carolyn's Corner

Annual Board and Committee Chairs Meeting
Our annual meeting will be held on Friday, December 16 starting with the Board session at 10:00 a.m. in the small conference room. Present and new officers are to attend. Current business will be discussed. The meeting will adjourn at noon.

Noon to 1:00 p.m. will be a Pot Luck Luncheon in the large conference room with all committee chairs joining with the Board. Everyone bring a dish to share. Good food + good friends equal good fun.

Starting at 1:00 p.m. Carolyn will meet with the Committee Chairs. Forms you will need for the 2012 season will be distributed. Programs and duties of chairs will be discussed. Entertainment provided. Attendance is expected, unless you have a conflict. See you all there.

Interviews for Potential Master Gardeners
The committee chosen for conducting the interviews will meet with the potential MGVs on Tuesday, December 13 and Wednesday, December 14 to talk with all of the applicants at an individual meeting.

During this short time we will try to get to know our interns interest areas and select a possible mentor for them. This is not a grilling session, but a friendly meet and greet.

Mentors
Any MG volunteers with the time to be a mentor please contact Carolyn by December 9, 2011. Must have the time to meet with intern, escort them to some meetings, and be available to answer questions they might have about the Master Gardener program.

Attend the training session on Wednesday, February 15, where we will introduce you to your mentee and you can make the initial contact by having a brown bag lunch together.

Short Course Workers
Thanks to all of you for volunteering to work at the 2012 Ohio Nursery Short Course. You may count the time you volunteer either as volunteer hours or Advanced Training hours, but not both. When not working, you can attend sessions or visit the Cents Show. This is an amazing opportunity to see the new trees and shrubs that will be showing up at your local dealers along with some amazing equipment.

Before the January General Meeting at 6:00 p.m., I will distribute your work schedule and directions and we will arrange car pools to Columbus. Parking is at a premium, so it is best to ride with others working on the same day as you.

Again thanks for volunteering.

Short Course Evaluations
On Friday, January 27, we will meet at 9:00 a.m. to begin tabulating all the speaker evaluations and general evaluations of the event. If you would like to help with this task, call Carolyn and sign up to count or type the data onto computer forms. If you can bring a laptop, let me know. Lunch is provided. Time counts for volunteer hours. I will also have a sign-up sheet at January General Meeting.

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!

"That's no December sky!
Surely 'tis June
Holds now her state on high
Queen of the noon.

Only the tree-tops bare
Crowning the hill,
Clear-cut in perfect air,
Warn us that still

Winter, the aged chief,
Mighty in power,
Exiles the tender leaf,
Exiles the flower."
- Robert Fuller Murray (1863-1894),
A December Day

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Herb Committee

Urgent Meeting
Wednesday, December 7, 2011 from 1:00 -2:00 p.m. in OSUE small conference room.

Due to lack of chairperson(s), we are reorganizing. All Herb Committee members and sub-garden chairs are strongly encouraged to attend. All MGV members interested in participating on the Herb Committee may also attend.

Garden Fling

The first meeting of the Garden Fling was on Monday, November 14th from 1:00-3:00. Twenty members attended and gave us some new directions for the up and coming Garden Fling that will be held on Saturday, April 7t, 2012, at Kenton Ridge High School from 9:00-3:00.

This is a fundraiser and also a time when members can get advance training credit for recertification. You will be asked to help set-up and run the Garden Fling so please volunteer and get in some hours. We are asking again that if you have some garden books to contribute them to the book sale. The used books were good for sales last spring and what we do not sell we will give to the Perennial and Barn sales to be sold in May.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 9th from 1:00-3:00 in the large conference room at OSU Extension. Please think about coming and putting in your thoughts of how we can make the Garden Fling work better for us and the community. Thanks for your support.
Fred Rufener and Jean Rickards

Fund Raising

In case you missed the banquet or the last general meeting, we have good news. The "Amazing Race" event we held in our gardens raised $3,200 for our brick paths. If you see someone from the Leadership Academy or the Springfield Rotary Club, thank them for doing such a great job of helping us with this project. Watch the calendar for our next meeting. Thanks for all of your help this past year.
Ruth Ann Rahim

The Tree Survey Wrap Up Meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, December 12, 2011 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. here at OSU Extension.

Utzinger Memorial Garden

"Forecasting the Future for Fifty Years," is the theme for Farm Science Review 2012, but before we go there let's reflect on FSR 2011. Please plan to attend our wrap up session that is in the small conference room at OSUE on Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 10:00 to noon.

I appreciate everyone's patience with final clean up in the garden this year. A late tour, cancellation, and reschedule date put us further out in the calendar than we have ever been. Mrs. Utzinger and her daughter, Elaine were pleased with the garden when they visited on Halloween. Thankfully, we had an unseasonably warm day in November and successfully completed putting things to bed for the winter.
Cindy Schneider

Helpline

We have MGVs. who have already signed up for April 2012 HELPLINE. APRIL DATES ARE GOING FAST, SO CALL FOR YOU RESERVATION. And remember why SANTA loves to garden: because he likes to HOE, HOE, HOE. ?
Rick McKinstry

PLANT OF THE MONTH:
MISTLETOE

In December I usually try and write something with a Christmas theme. I've been doing this for a number of years and had a hard time thinking of something different. My daughter came up with this topic. Mistletoe is commonly used as a Christmas decoration, though such use was rarely alluded to until the 18th century. According to ancient Christmas custom, a man and a woman who meet under a hanging of mistletoe were obliged to kiss.

Mistletoe is the common name for obligate hemi-parasitic plants in several families in the order Santalales. The plants grow attached to and within the branches of a tree or shrub. There are more than 1300 species.

The name was originally applied to Viscum album (European Mistletoe, Santalaceae), the only species native in Great Britain and much of Europe. European mistletoe, Viscum album is recognized by its smooth edged oval evergreen leaves borne in pairs along the woody stem, and waxy white berries in dense clusters of 2 to 6. Viscum album is a poisonous plant that causes acute gastronintestinal problems. Both European mistletoe and North American species are commercially harvested for Christmas decorations.

Mistletoe plants grow on a wide range of host trees and commonly reduce their growth but can kill them with heavy infestation. All mistletoes are hemi-parasites, bearing evergreen leaves that do some photosynthesis, and using the host mainly for water and mineral nutrients. Most mistletoe seeds are spread by birds. The mistletoe first sprouts from bird feeces on the trunk of the tree and in its early stages of life, takes nutrients from this source.

A broad array of animals depend on mistletoe for food, consuming the leaves and young shoots, transferring pollen between plants, and dispersing the sticky seeds. The dense evergreen witches' brooms formed by dwarf mistletoes of western North America also make excellent locations for the roosting and nesting of Northern Spotted Owls.

As you stand under the mistletoe this season you can think of some of these interesting facts. Yeah, right!

I wish all of you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dot Burkholder

December's Pre-Symphony Dinner at Woman's Town Club

The season's third Pre-Performance Dinner is Saturday, December 10th, at the Woman's Town Club, 805 East High Street. Menu for the evening's meal:

Broccoli Salad
Pork Tenderloin Medallions
or
Pasta Alfredo with Chicken
California Medley
Bread
Crème Brulee with Fruit or Blueberry Pie

Dinner is served 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and you may make a reservation even if you are not attending the performance. Make your reservation by Tuesday, December 6th to Linda Kuhn 325.5667.
Dinner ($25.00) includes full-course dinner, dessert, and a complimentary glass of wine, tax and gratuity.
You don't want to miss the opportunity to dine at WTC during the holidays or the "The Music of Billy Joel with Jeans 'n Classics" performed by the Springfield Symphony. A great evening is in store for you.

Herb of the Month

Marjoram, *Origanum marjorana*

According to some historians, if you want your deceased loved ones to enjoy a pleasant afterlife, you need to plant marjoram on their graves. The Egyptians used marjoram and other fragrant spices to appease the gods in the embalming process. Marjoram was used during the Roman Empire times as well.

Sweet marjoram, as it is called, grows wild in the Mediterranean region, with some 90 percent of the world's supply coming from Egypt.

Be all that as it may, marjoram, *Origanum marjorana*, is similar to oregano – according to some botanists. Oregano was, for a long time, considered "wild marjoram," but the plants do not look similar. Marjoram is a member of the mint family.

Marjoram has a mild, sweet oregano flavor and sports oval, inch-long leaves. It is easy to grow from seed if you plant it *after* all danger of frost is over. Full sun and somewhat dry conditions are good for the herb. During mid-season, marjoram has small white or pink clumps of flowers on its tips. If you remove these buds as they form, this will help the plant live longer and encourage more leaf production.

While marjoram is listed as a perennial, it is sensitive to cold weather and will wither when frost hits it. It is possible to bring it indoors for overwintering if you take clippings to root in water.

Dried marjoram holds its beautiful fragrance and its flavor much better than other herbs do when dried. It is wonderful for meat dishes and also for seasoning vegetables (raw or cooked), as well as for fish and chicken. Some cooks say that it is really delicious along with other herbs in beef stew.

- Jon Joyce

"Frosty days and ice-still nights,
Fir trees trimmed with tiny lights,
Sound of sleigh bells in the snow,
That was Christmas long ago.

Tykes on sleds and shouts of glee,
Icy-window filigree,
Sugarplums and candle glow,
Part of Christmas long ago.

Footsteps stealthy on the stair,
Sweet-voiced carols in the air,
Stocking hanging in a row,
Tell of Christmas long ago.

Starry nights so still and blue,
Good friends calling out to you,
Life, so fact, will always slow...
For dreams of Christmas long ago."
- Jo Geis, Christmas Long Ago

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"May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope;
The spirit of Christmas which is peace;
The heart of Christmas which is love."
- Ada V. Hendricks

The Master Gardener "Blades & Blooms" is a publication of the Clark County Extension Office, 4400 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 104, Springfield, Ohio, 45502, 937-521-3860. The Master Gardener Advisor is Pam Bennett.

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