



Blades and Blooms

Master Gardener
Ohio State University Extension Volunteer

Master Gardeners of Clark County
PO Box 158, Springfield, Ohio 45501-0158 Volume 18 Number 02 February 11

Mark Your Calendar !



February

- 1 10 am Herb Comm Mtg @OSU, Sm ConfRm
- 4 8-10 am Way to Grow
- 7 10-12 OSUE Staff Meeting
- 8 1 pm Fundraising Comm @OSUE, Sm ConfRm
- 9 9-3 Basic PowerPoint Wkshop
6:30 pm Exec. Board Mtg.
- 10 9-12 PowerPoint Practice @ OSUE
- 11 9-11 Fair Flower Show Mtg @Morris's
10-11:30 am Perennial Comm @ Panera Bread
- 19 9-Noon Vegetable Class & OSUE
- 20 B&B Deadline
- 23 9-3 Using PowerPoint @OSUE
- 26 11:30 am Maple Sugaring @ Young's Dairy
10-11:30 Food Safety @OSUE

FEBRUARY IS MAPLE SYRUPTIME

Sugaring will be on Saturday, February 26th. Meet at Young's Farm Store at 11:30 am, venture to our farm at 6187 Garrison Road and then trudge up the hill to the MAPLE trees. Arrive at farm by noon. Families are invited. See you there! Any question call 767-7504.

Nancy Vanderglas

President's Message:

Spring is in the air. I say this as we are having another snow storm! The good thing is winter gives us time to dream, plan, look, re-plan, and order from all of the great catalogs we are now receiving! I received an Ole Farmers Almanac as a Christmas gift. I found a gardening article that told about all of the benefits of growing and eating all colors of vegetables. The author then told about planting a rainbow garden, one that incorporated all of the different color vegetables. Isn't that a great concept! She included 5 colors of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, and purple. I then decided to see if I could find seeds for all of the veggies she suggested to try, see page 6 for the list.. So far, I have found all but the Apple Green Eggplant. Now I know some of these items grow underground and some don't mature at the same time as others, but wouldn't that be fun to try with flowers. Now there is a challenge.

Planning for our Garden Fling is well underway with the great leadership of our two co-chairs, Jean and Fred. This is an event you don't want to miss. It is always great to have such good speakers right in our backyard and at a great price of only \$7.00 for the entire day! We have great vendors who always have something new and different, thanks to Ed's hard work. Currently we have 112 names on our MG volunteer list, so if everyone brought one additional person, what a crowd we would have! Please call your friends and let them know about our event and by all means, bring yourself!

Also, if you haven't been to the Perennial School, March 3, that is also a great educational event! I have been attending long before I became a Master Gardener (when I was still a shepherd). I always bring my mom and some of my daughters. We have participants from across the state and it is always such a fun event, so sign up early.

We have new MGV brochures! We will be putting them in a new display with the Springfield Visitors and Convention Bureau, with video, at the fairgrounds, plus many more places. Make sure you stop in the OSUE office and pick up a few to spread the word. Get those tools sharpened up!

Ruth Ann

P.S. Send me an e-mail with your favorite garden centers and/or seed catalogs, rutharahim@yahoo.com.

A candle loses nothing of its light by lighting another candle.

JAMES KELLER

Pam's Posies

As I write this article (a few days late – sorry Sydney!), I am at the OSU Nursery Short Course and once again, I am overwhelmed by the



commitment that you make to OSUE and our programs. Thanks to all of you who worked over the 4 days to make the program a huge success. A good sign, our numbers were up slightly! This event wouldn't be the success that it is without your help and it's truly appreciated. I hope that you also gained a lot from the educational sessions. There were quite a few good speakers and presentations.

While at another conference and trade show in early January, I found the perfect water feature for the front landscape. The Gateway Learning Garden Committee approved the purchase and we will be installing them in the front this spring. They are really cool and will add a lot to the landscape. The ornamental grasses already look fantastic.

I have introduced the MGV initiatives to County Coordinators across the state and they are being well-received. When I developed these initiatives for the MGV program, I did it with a priority on NOT creating new programs but taking what we are already doing and packaging it in a way that will have more impact on our communities and clientele.

Those initiatives are as follows: 1) Integrated pest management; 2) Invasive species (perhaps you read this in my column recently); 3) Local foods (backyard and community gardens); and 4) Environmental issues (tree inventories, stormwater retention, rain gardens, green roofs).

Carolyn and I will be looking at where our programs fit into these initiatives and focusing our training and programming efforts on these areas. I am excited about being able to focus our efforts on local community issues. Watch for more in the future.

Our MGV brochures are available for distribution and if you are doing any programs or presentations or will be attending events where people might be interested in learning the program, feel free to pick up a handful of them. Carolyn and Ruth Ann are working to coordinate the general distribution of these. We also have a rack card promoting our tours – they are fantastic! These are going to be in hotels and other places where people might see them and call for a tour.

I am so tired of winter that once the short course is over, I am ready to work outside! I don't think that Mother Nature is ready for me to work outside but that's beside the point. Aren't you ready to be outdoors?????

Pam

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



Jo's Notes

Thoughts and Prayers

Jane Malowney's husband passed away Jan 24. Her address is 5423 Fletcher Chapel Road, Springfield, OH 45502.

Polly Cooper, knee replacement. Her address is 1763 Stratford Place, Springfield, OH 45504.

Bill Edwards wants to thank everyone for their cards and well wishes during his health recovery.

Email Address

Marty Harley's email address: martagarden@woh.rr.com

Diane Catenacci new email: di.catenacci@gmail.com

2011 MG V Calendars

Please pick up your calendars. They are on the bench in Suite 102. Your name is on the front of the calendar.

Reminder: All fees for recertification, programs, events, etc. that are sponsored by the Master Gardeners of Clark County need to be payable to Master Gardeners of Clark County and mailed to Master Gardeners of Clark County, PO Box 158, Springfield, OH 45501-0158. OSU Extension cannot accept any checks for the Master Gardeners. Thank you.

Carolyn's Corner

Food Safety Training

Master Gardeners who are responsible for any food handling must complete a short training with Carol Miller on Food Handling Safety. These Chairs must attend one of the two sessions: Herb Committee - Peggie Elsnau and Natheta Mercer; Social - Carlene Grassle; Utzinger Chefs - Kathy McConkey, Carolyn Allen, Carolyn Hennigan; Jubilee Food Chair - Sydney Axtell.

Meeting dates: February 26, 10-11:30 a.m. in the Large Conference Room.

May 17 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Large Conference Room.

These classes will be taught by Carol Miller, Extension Educator, Food and Consumer Sciences.

Any Master Gardeners may attend if you think you might be doing some food handling. It is also very interesting. Call Linda Newman and reserve a spot in either class. Must preregister. (937-521-3860).

The Ohio State University Nursery Short Course and CENTS Show

Thanks to all who volunteered and worked at the Short Course and to those of you who worked on evaluations. It wouldn't work without you. Marvelous job!!!

Garden Tool Order

Watch your emails for information on ordering tools. Since the cancellation of January's general meeting, I will email information and prices to everyone. If you wish to order any tools, email me your choices. Must have payment before I order. Deadline to order is February 21 and must have payment by February 25. Send check to PO Box 158, Springfield, Ohio 45501. Check payable to Master Gardeners of Clark County.

Your choices are:

Soil knife and a sheath to carry it (can order just the knife).

No. 2 Felco pruners + Carrying sheath (can order just the pruners)

Folding Pruning saw

Good chance to get some quality gardening tools at a little bit lower cost. Best deal is the soil knife and sheath

Vegetable Class (3 Hours of Advanced Training)

"Time to Get the Garden Started", Saturday, February 19, 2011 from 9:00 an-Noon at OSU Extension in the Large Conference Room. Registration \$10.00. Site Preparation, Seed Starting, and Pest and Disease Control and more.

Forms are inserted in this newsletter or go online at <http://clark.osu.edu>

Sponsored by Ohio State University Extension

Happy Birthday to...



Debbie Henry	1st
Cheryl Walsh	4th
Barbara Brown	14th
Marty Harley	17th
Fran Davidson	18th
Carolyn Allen	21st
Cynthia Valente	22nd
Deanne Rucker	23rd

Learning Opportunities:

The Allen County Master Gardeners will be hosting the 12th Annual "Art of Gardening" seminar on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at the OSU-Lima Campus.

The daylong seminar will feature 4 speakers and provide 6 hours of continuing education. Featured speakers include Janet Macunovich; Scott Zanon; Chelsea Smith and Marcella Ciccotelli.

The cost of the event will be \$45.00 and will include brunch, lunch, snacks and door prizes. Registration forms and more information is available at www.allen.osu.edu

For questions contact:

Gretchen Staley

Volunteer Coordinator

Allen County Master Gardeners Association

419-302-4234

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Our next meeting will be February 8 at 1:00 p.m. in the small conference room. Possibilities for fundraising under discussion include the American Dream Raffle, compiling another MG cookbook, gathering photos MG have taken that would be suitable for boxed card collections, and calendars with monthly helpful hints, just to name a few. Bring any additional ideas back from the Cents show that you think might work. Our brochure for the brick memory garden is at the printers so we will be working on that mailing
Ruth Ann Rahim

PERENNIAL PLANT & BARN SALE

I read the other day that this is the best time of year for shopping at Thrift stores. Donations go up during this time of year and good finds are to be had. With that in mind, I thought it would be a good time to remind those of you who are donating and shopping, to keep your eye out for garden items for the "Plant and Barn Sale" in May. Also, for the shopper – as your circling all those items in your garden catalogs to purchase for this year's wish list, look to see if there is something that would be wonderful to donate for the plant sale, too!!
Marilyn Hinderer



PERENNIAL COMMITTEE

The Perennial Committee rescheduled the Jan. 12 meeting for Friday, Feb. 11 at Panera Bread's meeting room from 10-11:30. We realize that there is also a Fair Flower Show meeting in the same time frame, but had to work within our scheduling limitations. Any committee member affected by the scheduling conflict can contact Dot, Kathy or a fellow attendee for meeting information. Come, help us plan and enjoy the change of pace!
Dot Burkholder and Kathy McConkey

HERB COMMITTEE

We have rescheduled our first meeting of 2011. It will be in the small conference room on Tuesday, February 1 at 10 am. We have lots to discuss and want your input. We hope the weather cooperates this time!
Natheta Mercer and Peggie Elsnau

HELPLINE

Less than 3 months till we start THE HELPLINE. I guess cows aren't into the 4 basic food groups, especially when they are two of them.
Rick McKinstry 324-5344

GARDEN FLING

Our Garden Fling is coming up on Saturday, April 2nd at Kenton Ridge High School at 4444 Middle Urbana Road, Springfield. We need your help to spread the word through calling your friends and neighbors and family. We also have bookmarks and flyers that will need to be distributed throughout the county. The educational classes can be used for your advanced training. We are also asking you to contribute any used garden books to the Fling for additional fundraising.

We want this to be the largest Garden Fling we had and that can only happen with each and every Master Gardener's support. The admission is \$7.00 and our keynote speaker is Dr. Laura Deeter. We will send out more information as all the educational classes are filled and let you know what other topics will be available for your enjoyment. Let's make this year be our best.
Thanks: Fred Rufener and Jean Rickards

GREENHOUSE/FIELD TRIALS

The orientation and clean-up at the greenhouse for the 2011 growing season was a huge success! Weeds were pulled, the over-wintering plants were cleaned up and inspected and the whole place was disinfected. Eighteen Master Gardener volunteers pitched in and made the place shine. Marilyn and I can't tell you how much we appreciate all your help. Thanks for coming out on a rainy January day.

Now we're ready so — bring on the plants!
Marilyn Hinderer and Sally Day

UTZINGER GARDEN

Thanks to all of you who attended our first planning meeting on January 19. I was caught off guard by the severity of the ice. I have to keep in mind that my urban streets are often in way better condition than the county roads. We will hopefully have some good weather in March to take care of our dormant pruning. If you are interested in joining us for this please drop me an email at cschneider10@woh.rr.com. I am not scheduling a date, but will monitor the weather and look for a good time that we can schedule short notice.

Lastly, I would like to remind all garden chairs to get their plans and plant lists in to me by the end of March so that we are ready to move forward once weather permits. If you are having problems with your plans, I would be happy to meet with you.
Cindy Schneider

FAIR FLOWER SHOW

The first meeting of the Fair Flower group will be February 11 at 460 North Bird Rd at 9:00 a.m.. Please come. Everyone is welcome. As usual the coffee pot will be on. Come with great ideas. We also need to discuss the meeting June 4 for all those who would like advise on displaying your flowers at the fair.
Thank you
Madge Morris

FIELD TRIP

Field Trip ~ March 23rd

We are inviting each and every one of you to come with us to the Columbus, Ohio Franklin Park Conservatory. This beautiful botanical landmark was built in 1895. It was then and continues to be a premier horticultural and educational institution. We plan to carpool over, have a delicious lunch and make a stop at one of Columbus' many garden centers or garden art stores.

Our very first trip as co-chairs will be March 23rd. Please save the date! More information will be forthcoming in the March *B&B* and at the March General Meeting. In case you have never been there or it's been awhile, here is the website: www.fpconservatory.org Check it out.

Thanks! We hope you will join us,
Dea Rucker and Sally Day

PLANT OF THE MONTH

SWEET WOODRUFF

Galium (gay-lee-um)

by Dot Burkholder

Sweet woodruff has the ability to look good and cover lots of territory fairly quickly. This makes it a good candidate for growing under high trees and around understory shrubs. It has single, small knife-shaped leaves that circle in tiers around the stemlike flattened wheel spokes. This perennial has a rich green color and spreads by means of underground stems to make a lovely ground cover in the proper growing conditions.



This small unassuming groundcover has subtle but lovely clusters of star-shaped white flowers that bloom in late spring. The height of this plant will be about 5 to 8 inches high with a spread of about 18 inches. The dried foliage is fragrant and has been used to flavor wines. The dried leaves were also once used to freshen stale rooms and stuff mattresses. This led to the alternative common name of bedstraw. This plant prefers partial shade. It grows in full shade but it won't bloom as well.

If you want sweet woodruff to spread widely, plant in soil which has been loosened and amended with compost. Keep the soil well watered but evenly moist to encourage plants to

fill in more quickly but don't let them sit in water. You can divide these plants into smaller clumps in spring or fall. Shear back after blooming to encourage plants to fill in with foliage and crowd out weeds. Sweet woodruff might have occasional problems with mildew, rust and fungal leaf spot. In light shade, the fine texture of sweet woodruff will create a pleasing contrast with the bold leaves of hosta and the rounded foliage of creeping Jenny.

NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH

Pasqueflower (genus *Pulsatilla*)

by Janet Hannel



Have you realized by now that my plant choices are limited to those of which I have photos!!! Which brings us to the pasqueflower, which I didn't even know was a native until I checked!! My only pasqueflower has been gracing that impossible area between the sidewalk and the street for many years. Every spring I marvel that it is still there- and actually enlarging. So... it is hardy!! And beautiful!! And not invasive!!

This plant has a number of other names, including prairie crocus, wind flower, Easter Flower, and meadow anemone. It is valued for its finely-dissected leaves, solitary bell-shaped flowers, yellow anthers and plumed seed heads, which are extremely long lasting. Pasqueflowers do not have true petals; instead it is the sepals that give the flowers color. Also, it is early blooming, in that period when gardeners treasure all signs of spring.

My recollection is that there are pasqueflowers in the extension perennial gardens. Pasqueflower, however, is highly toxic and has been used by native Americans medicinally for centuries; i.e. the Blackfoot Indians used it to induce both abortions and childbirth! It is the state flower of South Dakota. (I should mention that no dogs have died or given birth recently on my street!!!)

It can be planted from seed in the fall, but is also available at many nurseries. Unless you are planting a tall grass prairie and have masochistic tendencies, I'd try the nursery first.

Herb of the Month

MARSH MALLOW

Althaea officinalis

An herb named marsh mallow intrigued me, so I decided to check it out to see if it was connected to the marshmallow we like to roast and eat. Actually, there is a connection. Originally, the soft sweet marshmallow candy was thickened with root of marsh mallow before the use of gelatin and other products.



This is another, of the herbs that have been used for centuries. The generic name, *Althaea*, comes from the Latin *altheo* meaning "I cure". Marsh mallows were widely used in Greek medicine for healing wounds. The Romans used it medicinally and as a delicious vegetable. In Renaissance times, herbalists used marsh mallow to cure sore throat, stomach troubles, and toothache.

Marsh mallow grows throughout Europe, Asia, Australia, and Eastern United States. It is commonly found on the banks near the ocean and in salt marshes. It is an erect, hardy perennial growing 2-4 feet high and spreading about 2 feet. The taproot is woody and tapering. The stems are woolly with several spreading leafy branches. The leaves are grey green, tear shaped covered all over with soft hair. It has pink or white flowers in summer that are 1-2 inches wide. The fruit is round, downy, and contains many seeds. Marsh mallows like full sun and moist, fertile soil. They can be easily propagated by seed, cuttings, or root division. Cut back after flowering to encourage new leaves. The plants are usually free from diseases and pests. Butterflies love marsh mallow plants.

I was surprised to learn what a versatile plant Marsh mallow is. The roots can be boiled, sliced and fried in butter to eat. The leaves can be used in soups and salads, and steamed as a vegetable. The flowers can also be used in salads. Due to the high mucilage content of the roots, leaves, and flowers, it is said to soothe or cure inflammation, stomach ailments, sore throats, coughs, and skin conditions. The pulverized roots may be warmed and used as a poultice for healing and drawing. I hope you learned something about the marsh mallow plant and have a new respect for it as I have.

Respectfully submitted by Peggie Elsnau and Natheta Mercer, Herb committee co-chairs.

Sources:

Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs

The Macmillan Treasury of Herbs, Ann Bonar

Herbs for the Home, Jekka McVicar

Herb Society Encyclopedia of Herbs and Their Uses, Deni Brown



Grow a Rainbow Garden

RED

1. Chiogga beets
2. New Red Fire Lettuce
3. Carmen sweet pepper
4. Rose tomato

ORANGE

1. Touchon carrot
2. Cheddar cauliflower
3. Charentais melon
4. Sungold cherry tomato
5. Sunshine winter squash

YELLOW

1. Roc d'Or Bush Bean
2. Touchstone Gold Beet
3. Yellow Doll watermelon
4. Gold Rush zucchini

GREEN 1. Maxibel French filet bean

2. Apple Green eggplant
3. Early Jalapeno hot pepper
4. Space spinach
5. Romanesco zucchini

PURPLE

1. Royal Burgundy bush bean
2. Purple Haze hybrid carrot
3. Graffiti hybrid cauliflower
4. All Blue Potatoes
5. Cherokee Purple Tomato

*"The early mist had vanished
and the fields lay like a silver
shield...
It was one of the days when the
glitter of winter shines..."*

Edith Warton

Ruth Ann Rahim Receives Ohio Friend of Extension Award

Clark County thirty year volunteer recognized for service to Extension, 4-H and the Master Gardener program.

Ruth Ann Rahim was recognized by the Ohio Association of Extension Professionals (OAEP) for her outstanding contribution to and support of Extension programming in Clark County and Ohio.

Ruth Ann received the Ohio Association of Extension Professionals (OAEP) Friend of Extension Award on December 15 during the Ohio State University Extension Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus.

The OAEP Friend of Extension Award is annually given to a few individuals or Organizations, that have made significant contributions to OSU Extension's mission. Ruth Ann was one of two presented with the award this year.

"Ruth Ann's contributions to the OSU Extension program are countless. Without a doubt, there is hardly a day that goes by that Ruth Ann is not volunteering her time, talents and skills to benefit Extension, 4-H and the Master Gardener Program. "Many people check their personal calendar before committing volunteer time, Ruth Ann checks her Extension calendar, so she can squeeze in yet another way to support our efforts", shares, Patty House, 4-H Extension Educator.

Ruth Ann has served OSU Extension for 30 years. Her passion about OSU Extension and her service at the county, state and national level are testaments to her commitment.

Her leadership roles in the OSU Extension organization have included Chairperson for Clark County's Extension Advisory Committee, 4-H Advisory Committee and the Master Gardeners of Clark County. Her testimonies for how "Extension is making a difference" have resonated at numerous Legislative Breakfasts, Commissioner Hearings and Lay Leaders Conferences in Washington D.C.

She is a founding member of the Midwest Festival of Fibers. Now in its 15th year, this two-day event has 125 vendors from 14 different states and draws 9,000 attendees promoting the economic importance of agricultural products to Clark County.

Ruth Ann has made a difference in the lives of thousands of young people serving as a 4-H Club Advisor with Wooley Critters for 13 years and as a volunteer leader in the overall Clark County 4-H program for thirty years. "She truly lives the 4-H motto to "Make the BEST Better" as she has led the charge to help initiate new funding, promotional and educational programs like "Send A Kid to 4-H Camp," 4-H Kickoff at Cloverfield and the Sheep Quiz Bowl," adds House.

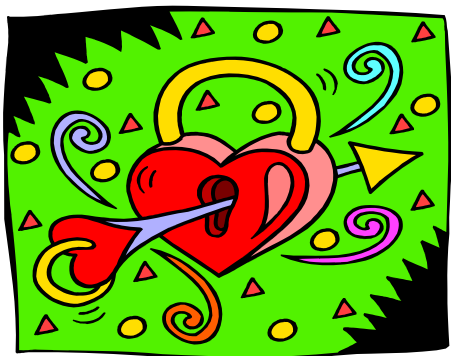
"She has volunteered 1,395 hours to the Master Gardener program over the last four years," explains Pam Bennett, Extension Director and Horticulture Educator for the county's Extension program. Her Master Gardening efforts have supported garden expansion efforts in the Gateway Learning Gardens and Field Trial/Greenhouse research. She has actively supported the Master Gardening program in the Utzinger gardens at Farm Science Review and the Heritage Garden at the Ohio Governor's Residence.

OSU Extension, Clark County Extension Educator's and support staff and Ruth Ann Rahim's daughter Debbie Demmitt were present to celebrate with Ruth Ann. OAEP is the professional association representing Extension educators throughout Ohio. For more information on OSU Extension, see <http://extension.osu.edu>.



Front Row: Patty House, Ruth Ann Rahim, Debbie Demmitt, Patti Holbrook, Back Row, Jo Brown, Phil Myers, Linda Newman, Carol Miller

Ohio State University Extension
Clark County
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Will You Be Mine?

Valentine, you make me silly;
You make my heart beat willy-nilly;
When I'm with you, the world is hazy;
Valentine, you drive me crazy!

Valentine, when we're apart,
My need for you goes off the chart.
Will you be mine? Can I be thine?
Say you'll be my Valentine!

By Joanna Fuchs



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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