



**Master Gardener**  
Ohio State University Extension Volunteer

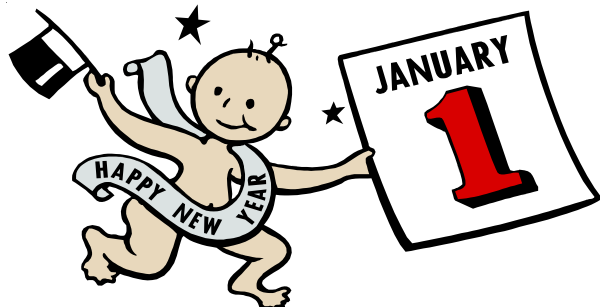
<http://clark.osu.edu/topics/horticulture/blades-blooms-newsletters>

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# Blades and Blooms

Master Gardeners of Clark County

PO Box 158, Springfield, Ohio 45501-0158 Volume 18 Number 01 January 11



## Mark Your Calendar !

### January

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 3     | 10 - Noon OSUE OC   |
| 4     | 1-3 pm Fundraising  |
| 10    | 1-3 pm Garden Fling   |
| 11    | 10-12 am Herb Com.  |
| 12    | 5 pm Perennial Com.   |
|       | 6-6:30 pm Short Course Workers                                  |
|       | 6 pm Social   |
|       | 6:30 pm General Meeting   |
| 17    | Office Closed to observe<br>Martin Luther King Day              |
| 19    | Dine to Donate @ Applebee's<br>10-Noon Utzinger Garden Com.     |
|       | 1-3 pm Finance Com.   |
| 20    | B&B Articles Due  |
| 23    | Perennial Plant Assoc. Symposium,<br>Columbus Convention Center |
| 24-26 | Nursery Short Course, Columbus                                  |
| 28    | 9 am Short Course Evaluations<br>@OSUE                          |

## President's Message:

A new year is upon us and we will all take a little time to reflect on last year, 2010. As far as weather goes, we Master Gardeners remember 2010 as a wet, cold spring with a very hot and dry summer. However, the total effect the weather had on our plants and plantings probably will not be known until spring. While thinking about all of this, I received a Christmas letter from an Iowa sheep friend (more on that later). I would like to share a bit of the letter with you.

"This year marked Kathy's ringing in the half century mark. Either we're approaching 1,500 years old or the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers can't be trusted for their math, as Iowa experienced its third 500-year flood in our lifetime in 2010. Record snowfalls for our lifetime were only to be followed by spring monsoons and summer rains that were measured in inches, as some weeks, we got up to 12 inches of rain. Crops did poorly in most places, as did gardens, as plants drowned mired in wet roots and roadways slipped under water many times this spring and summer. We live on a high ridge, so if we're ever flooded here, it will mark the end of the world, but we sympathized with those who lost their homes and fields to floods. Many of our photos were seen on Des Moines TV, as we submitted storm and sunset photos often. A tornado wall cloud photo we took was seen on TV as far away as Seattle. Fortunately, we were spared storm damage from that one!" Actually, our weather was pretty great compared to Iowa!

As Dea listed all of our accomplishments in the December newsletter, we have many things to be proud of in 2010. A big thank you to Dea for providing us with such great leadership and vision over the past year. She was such a great mentor. I hope I can get half as many things accomplished as she did. We are all looking forward to Dea's leadership as co-chair of the field-trip committee.

All of our committees will be starting again, and I encourage the new class to join in the fun. We need all of your help and talents. Committee chairs, this is one of the greatest classes to date and I hope you all contact at least one new member not listed on your roster to join in for 2011.

I hope to see many of you at the next monthly meeting or at the CENTS show in Columbus. I am always available by phone, if I'm not at the OSU Extension office. My number is 969-8587.

Happy lambing.

Ruth Ann



Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.

VERNA M. KELLY

## Pam's Posies

Happy New Year to you and your family! Where does the time go? It just seems impossible that the year goes by so fast. However, these next few months will drag just because it's winter!

A lot of planning is happening at this time. Again, be sure to read the entire newsletter and if something interests you, by all means, attend the committee meeting or inquire how you can get involved. You don't have to stick with the same project all of the time if you want to try out new things. I also reiterate to committee chairs to keep everyone up to date through this newsletter. It is our best form of communication – for now!

I say for now (above) because who knows what the future will hold. I see more and more people starting to get into the social media scene! Why, Susie Anderson has become the queen of Facebook in just a few short weeks! This year we will have the first official Facebook page for Clark County MGVs – stay tuned!

Thanks to Dea Rucker's leadership and the future leadership of Ruth Ann Rahim, we have finished and will be implementing our strategic plan. One big component is raising the awareness and marketing our program. The brochures that we had developed by Wilt PR will be available at the general meeting for distribution. Take a few and hand them out to people who might be interested in the MGV program. If you are going to any group meetings, take a few more to distribute.

We will also have rack cards in travel and tour displays around town and they will be sent to various tour companies. We hope to double the number of tours in the Gateway Learning Gardens this year. We also need to make sure that our gardens are in tip-top shape all season!

In regards to budget, things will be rather challenging again this year. We are still waiting to hear what the county budget situation will be as well as the state budget. We could potentially get hammered from both sides again and will definitely need your support! Stay tuned!

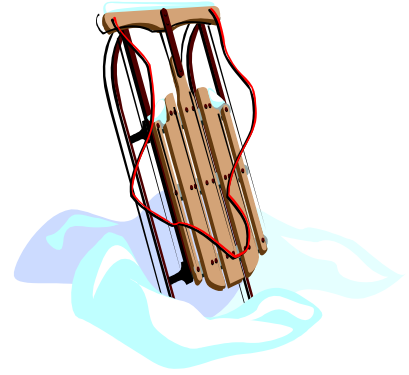
As always, thanks for all of your support in 2010 and I look forward to working with you again in 2011!

Pam

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

## Jo's Notes

### Out sledding!!!



My sincere thanks to the MGVs who called and sent such great cards after my recent surgery. Your thoughts, prayers and love came through loud and clear! You are the best!!

Barb Hall

"Clouded with snow  
The cold winds blow,  
And shrill on leafless bough  
The robin with its burning breast  
Alone sings now.

The rayless sun,  
Day's journey done,  
Sheds its last ebbing light  
On fields in leagues of beauty spread  
Unearthly white.

Thick draws the dark,  
And spark by spark,  
The frost-fires kindle, and soon  
Over that sea of frozen foam  
Floats the white moon."

- Walter de La Mare, Winter



# Carolyn's Corner

## Annual Committee Chairs Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Committee Chairs was held on Friday, December 17. A very tasty lunch was enjoyed by all. Those Master Gardeners are also great cooks. The key points discussed were: Committee Chairs must sign reimbursement forms for their committee purchases so that payment can be made. Payment will not be made until there is a chair signature. Have team members submit forms to their Committee Chair for signature and then the Chair will submit to the treasurer for reimbursement.

The Committees are responsible for their own publicity for any event that the committee is having.

Folders were given to each chair person containing all forms needed for the new year. \*\*\*If you were unable to attend the meeting, your folder is in your file folder. Please pick-up.

## Short Course Workers

Before the General Meeting on Jan. 12 at 6:00 p.m., we will meet to hand out your work schedules and forms for working at the Short Course. We will form car pools to travel to Columbus. This will save on parking and mileage. Be sure to attend this meeting.

On Friday, January 28 at 9:00 a.m., we will tally the speaker evaluations from Short Course and type the results onto forms. If you can type or supply a computer, please give me a call. This is usually an all day event and counts as volunteer hours. If we do not finish on Friday, anyone who can help on Monday, January 31, please come. This is normally just data entry.

## Advanced Training Opportunities

### **Annual Central Ohio Perennial Flower School**

Thursday, March 3, 2011

9-4 p.m.

Courtyard by Marriott Springfield, Ohio

Keynote Speaker: Stephanie Cohen "The Perennial Diva" -  
*New and Underused Perennials*

Other Presenters:

Roger Seeley - *Dwarf Conifers and Japanese Maples*

Brian Jorg - *Bulbs for Color*

Stephanie Cohen - *Dark and Light Side of Foliage*

Pam Bennett - *Managing Pests in the Garden*

Registration Required. Cost \$50.00

## PowerPoint Workshops

Basic PowerPoint Instruction (Beginners/Review)

Wednesday, February 9, 2011 9-3 p.m. Large Conference Room.

PowerPoint Workday

Thursday, February 10, 2011, 9-noon Small Conference Room. Bring own Lap Top if you have one, we will have some available to the first people who register. You can work on something and we will help as needed.

Using PowerPoint

Wednesday, February 23, 2011, 9-3 p.m. Large Conference Room. Bring the start of a program and we will critique and help you. After you register we will give you the parameters for your program.



# COMMITTEE REPORTS:

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the fundraising committee will be January 4 at 1:00 p.m. in the small conference room at the OSU Extension. We will be wrapping up loose ends from last year and putting some finishing touches on the brick pathway. Bring lots of new ideas for this year. See you there.

RuthAnn Rahim

P.S. Knitting classes begin again on Tuesday's beginning January 11.

## GARDEN FLING

Happy New Year---The second meeting of the Garden Fling team will be on January 10th in the large conference room from 1-3 pm at OSU Extension. We hope to see all who were at the first meeting held in November plus remember there was a special invite to those from the last class. Anyone else with an interest may attend. (Before you are drafted) Thanks to all.

Jean Rickards & Fred Rufener

## HERB COMMITTEE

The first 2011 meeting of the Herb Committee will be from 10 – Noon in the small conference room on Tuesday, January 11.

WELCOME to all the members who are continuing to serve and all you new members who expressed an interest on your signup sheets.

We will get reacquainted and plan our year's activities. If you are curious about the Herb Committee, please join us and find out all the things we do

Natheta Mercer and Peggie Elsnau

## PERENNIAL COMMITTEE

Come and join the Perennial Committee for its first meeting of the New Year on Wed., Jan. 12 at 5 p.m. (just before the General Meeting) in the small conference room. Those who have been researching new perennial plant introductions for 2011 are encouraged to bring your plant lists. Also, be thinking about how we can best keep our perennial gardens "tour ready" this coming year.

Happy New Year!

Kathy McConkey and Dot Burkholder

## UTZINGER GARDEN

With a new year, changes are coming more quickly than we thought. While we have tried to renovate a few areas each year so that it remains exciting for our visitors, this year will require changes in several areas. We have a pest to thank, foliar nematodes. The Plant Pest Diagnostic Clinic confirmed that our anemones have nematodes so all will need to be removed in the Spring. Gardens affected by this are the fall perennial, the pond area and the backyard garden. It will be a shame to lose these flowers since they have been so pretty and extremely reliable in blooming just in time for Farm Science Review.

Please mark your calendars and join us for a planning meeting on Wednesday, January 19 from 10AM to noon. I would appreciate ideas for replacement plants so that we can begin to locate plants, possibly even at the Cents show the following week. This meeting will also focus on garden design. Pam will be joining us to assist with design ideas and there will be door prizes. Please come out and share your thoughts for the new year.

Cindy Schneider

## HELPLINE

☞☞ **Don' forget your New Years resolution: Sign up early for HelpLine, call 324-5344.** And remember -- there is one good thing about snow, it makes your lawn look as nice as your neighbor's.

Happy New Year,

Rick McKinstry

## Happy Birthday to...

Jody	Frisby	4th
Diane	Catenacci	8th
Pamela	Thullen	8th
Joan	McLean	9th
Susan	Kogler	16th
Nancy	Vanderglas	25th
Eydie	Cox	26th
Fred	Miller	26th
Lola	Walston	26th



# PLANT OF THE MONTH:

## SCABIOSA (scab-ee-OH-suh)

### Pincushion flower, scabious

The petal packed blooms of Pincushion flower are so distinctive in the garden, they boast an interesting texture as well as bold color. They are very long blooming from early summer and often well into fall. They thrive in full sun in rich, well-drained, evenly moist soil.

Most are perennials with a reputation for being short-lived. Unless the plants are dug and divided periodically, they will die at the center and decline in overall vigor. The salvation of this quality is that you will have opportunities to make many new plants. It's easy to grow pincushion flower from seed started indoors or out and just barely covered. If you want to grow a particular cultivar, buy plants and propagate them by division.



Coreopsis, daylilies, and sunflower heliopsis will all complement the informal look of pincushion flower. Scabiosa 'Butterfly Blue' is the most well known and widely planted variety. It earned the Perennial Plant of the Year award in 2000. It will survive the winter everywhere but in the far north. For an eye-catching combination of butterfly-attracting flowers, try using 'Butterfly Blue' with anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) and a generous planting of butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*).

A variation was discovered on one Butterfly Blue plant that produced flowers with a strong pink cast. A new color with all the hearty qualities of its parent was propagated and is sold as Pink Mist. You'll find perennial Butterfly Blue and possibly Pink Mist as container plants in most garden centers. Pincushion flower doesn't have any major disease or insect problems. If you sow seeds outdoors, patrol for slugs, which may devour young seedlings.

There is just one annual species, *Scabiosa atropurpurea*. Many think it's beautiful because of its deep burgundy pincushions with snow-white pinheads. This outstanding flower is well worth replanting each spring. Many of the

*atropurpurea* group has varieties that can be found in the Thompson & Morgan seed catalog.  
Dot Burkholder

## Native Plant of the Month

### Winterberry *Ilex verticillata*

By  
Janet Hannel

If you want to jazz up your garden in the winter, select this native plant, winterberry holly. **Plant it where you can see it!** This shrub/tree has everything going for it: bright red berries, hardiness, and statuesque but not overbearing structure. Birds gobble the berries when they have reached the birds' idea of perfection, which is mid-winter.

Winterberry holly is dioecious, that lovely horticulture word which means: buy from a nursery and get at least one male tree/shrub to go with any number of females. Don't try to get a plant from the woods! Put the male in an inconspicuous spot as the females will carry the show, producing mucho berries and attaining greater height.

This plant grows well in poorly drained soil but thrives in regular soil as well. It prefers acidic soil but, once again, does well in Clark County's alkaline soil.

Last winter I came across an amusing article in a New Hampshire paper about people cutting winterberry branches for holiday decorations but not making sure that they were on public land. Homeowners were not amused to find someone taking beautiful branches from their trees!!!



## Herb of the Month:

### FEVERFEW (*Tanacetum parthenium*)

Another of the ancient herbs, feverfew was used as an herbal remedy during the time of Dioscorides about 78

AD. It had fallen from favor by medieval times but was recommended by British Herbalist Gerard in the 1600s. The name derives from the Latin,



*fefrifuga*, meaning “driver out of fevers”. Known by at least eleven other names, feverfew is one of the best loved medicinal herbs around, having a long history of use in traditional and folk medicine as treatment for disorders often controlled by aspirin such as fever and headaches. You will find it in the medicinal garden in our Early Ohio Settlers Garden.

Feverfew is a member of the daisy family having small composite flowers with white rays and yellow centers. The stem is upright, finely furrowed and hairy. The leaves are scented, alternate, bipinnate with serrated margins, often described as “fern-like”. The foliage has a bitter, citrus scent. The cultivar *aureum* has a dwarf habit, smaller flowers and golden aromatic foliage. Other cultivars have yellow flowers, double flowers or pom-pom like flowers. Indigenous to Eurasia, feverfew is now naturalized to most of the world. Feverfew was brought to America originally as an ornamental.

A small bush type plant, feverfew can grow one to three feet high and two feet wide. It is a perennial (although it is often considered a biennial or even an annual in nature), hardy to zone 5 and grows in full sun to part shade, flowering from June to September. There are several ways of propagating it, but it reseeds so readily that other methods are hardly necessary. To keep the plants vigorous, they should have good drainage, be deadheaded regularly, cut back by half when twelve inches or so, and divided every year or two. Bees do not like the smell of feverfew and will stay away from any garden it occupies. Unlike many herbs, feverfew has no significant culinary use. It can be decocted or infused for a mild disinfectant and used dried in sachets to deter mold. Feverfew adds color to potpourri and it is an excellent filler to use in floral arrangements. It is also reputed to be a good insect repellent. While studies are currently being done, the evidence that it prevents migraines is limited. It is always wise to use any herb for medicinal purposes carefully. The feverfew plant itself can cause irritation to the skin and mouth and should not be used by pregnant women. If you have a place for a feverfew plant in your garden, it’s a good one to try. I planted it in one of my gardens and now have it in two different ones. It adds texture and color and if you find you don’t like it, you can easily pull it out.

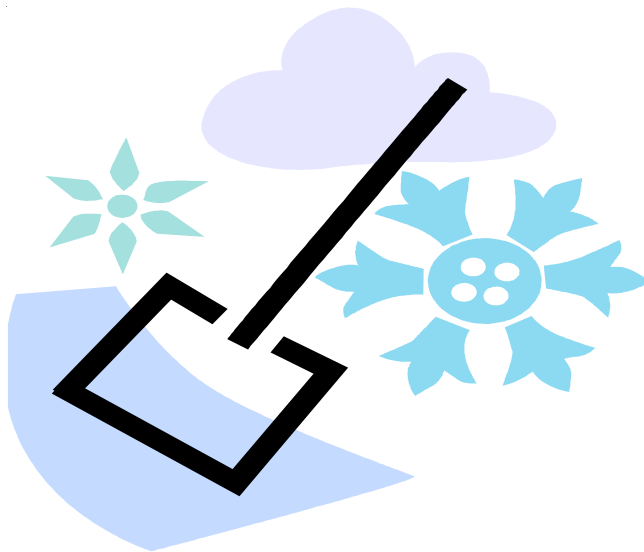
#### Resources:

[Herbal Tea Gardens](#) Marietta Marcin  
[The Well Tended Perennial Garden](#) Tracy Di Sabato-Aust  
[The Complete Book of Herbs](#) Lesley Bremness  
various internet sources  
Natheta Mercer and Peggie Elsnau

**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.

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*Stay  
Warm!*



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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