



Blades and Blooms

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

Mark Your Calendar !

November

- 2 9 am Last Garden Clean Up
- 4 1-3 pm Education Comm Mtg.
- 6 FALL BACK DST ends
- 7 5:30 pm Recognition Celebration
@Courtyard by Marriott, Springfield
- 9 6 pm Social
6:30pm Gen Mtg
- 11 Office Closed Veteran's Day
- 14 OC 10-12
1-3 pm Garden Fling Planning Mtg
3 - 4:30 pm Fundraising Comm Mtg
- 15 1-3 pm Finance Comm Mtg
- 18 9-12 MGV Calendar Day @ Panera
- 20 B&B Deadline
- 21 9-11 am Tree Survey Wrap Up Mtg
- 24 Office Closed Thanksgiving
- 25 Office Closed Thanksgiving

President's Message:

We just got back from the International Master Gardener Conference in Charleston, West Virginia. We heard some great talks and got some great ideas for next year. We, Ohio, had the second largest delegation there. And yes, our accommodations were better than last year, but there was a fire alarm and we had to evacuate the convention center. Always need a little excitement! Plan now on attending our state convention next year in Trumbull County.



Those of us who worked on the tree survey have finished our portions. I would encourage all of you to get involved next time. We all learned a lot about tree ID, saw parts of the city we didn't know existed, met people from all walks of life, but most importantly, spread the word about trees and Master Gardeners. It is so interesting to see what trees are planted where and if the homeowner actually knows what the tree outside his home is.

The days are getting a little shorter and it is time to think about putting our gardens to bed and getting our tender plants inside. Or, as I do at my house, get rid of all of those weeds. Also, the dahlias and cannas should be dug soon after the first frost and put in a cool dry place for next year; basements are good.

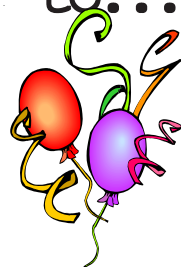
These cool days remind me of hot cider and keeping warm. We will be starting our knitting classes, November 3, 1-3. They will be on Thursday afternoons this year. Anyone can come, spouse or friend, you don't have to knit, you can do something else if you like, or just come visit.

Hope to see you all at the banquet!
Ruth Ann Rahim, President

P.S. Real Money, Real World (an OSU Extension signature program) is going to be held November 28 from 12-3 p.m. at the United Methodist Church across from Southeastern High School in South Charleston. If you can help or would like to help, give me a call.

Happy Birthday to...

- Madge Morris 2nd
- Nancy Best 5th
- Joan Corbitt 7th
- Phil Young 12th
- Sally Barber 13th
- Becky Menozzi 14th
- Nancy Adams 22nd
- Donna Meister 22nd
- Deborah Dean 23rd
- Rick McKinstry 24th
- Carlene Grassle 25th
- Jean Rickards 25th



Pam's Posies



Don't forget that everyone is invited to the Recognition Celebration! The event is to celebrate all of our volunteers and their efforts this year! This has been a great year for the Gateway Learning Garden and I look forward to it getting better each year. We have had an outstanding year for our gardens to be recognized by a lot of people in our community. And of course, the one thing we still continue to hear - and it's my goal to stop this nonsense! - "I didn't know this was back here!" We all need to work towards wiping out that phrase!

We had the Springfield in Full Bloom judge's reception here with a lot of movers and shakers attending - people who never knew the gardens existed! Then we had the Amazing Race sponsored by the Rotary and Leadership Academy - again, another bunch of community leaders visiting the garden - and didn't know the gardens existed! Let's keep the momentum going. We also had several tours this year.

Springfield didn't win the main competition for America in Bloom; however, we brought home an even better award! We received the Criteria Award for Floral Displays. This award is given to the best community out of all of the communities who entered the competition, regardless of community size. We beat out 21 other participants across the country to win this honor. It happened in part (a lot) to the MGVs of Clark County and our efforts with the hanging baskets and the plantings that we helped with around town. In addition, our GLG display also helped to earn this award. Congratulations to all who were involved in this effort.

Committee chairs need to come prepared to the MGV Planning Day on Nov. 18 at Panera. Bring your committee's calendars (to the best of your ability) and plan on scheduling our events next year.

The Tree Survey Team has completed the 20% survey of Springfield and is waiting for the results. When this is

complete, I'll share with everyone. See the note in this newsletter as to when the Team is meeting to wrap this up and plan next year.

I am so pleased with our progress that we made this season on the gardens. Keep up the great work and as you plan the gardens for next year, don't forget to keep me in the loop. We have an updated Master Plan and will continue to move forward on this.

Thanks for all you do for the community - you are truly givers.

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

WHY TREES MATTER TREE SURVEY TEAM WRAP UP MEETING NOVEMBER 21 AT OFFICE.

I need for all team members of the tree survey crews to attend this meeting at 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the office. Please bring any materials that you have left over in your possession, including papers, data, maps, and measuring tapes. You can keep the Biltmore sticks and the reference materials and books as they are yours! I also have a special thank you for all who participated in this project. We will discuss the survey this year (I'll explain in further detail why we only did 20% of the trees) and then determine our path for next year. Thanks to all of you who participated and I know that you learned quite a bit about our community and oh yea, the trees! Ask Ron Kurth what he learned about Springfield!

Pam

Jo's Notes

New Email Address

George B. Simon II has a new email address:
gbsimon2@att.net. Please update your roster.



Thoughts & Prayers

Janie Malowney, health issues. 5423 Fletcher Chapel Road, Springfield, OH 45502.

Betty Grimes, broken finger. 1206 Heard Avenue, Springfield OH 45506.

Carolyn's Corner

The West Virginia Master Gardeners put on a great conference last week and many of our group made the trip to Charleston. We had the opportunity to hear some fabulous speakers and meet Master Gardeners from across the United States and Canada.

Some of the presentations I attended were Sugar, Sex, and Poison: Shocking Plant Secrets Caught on Camera. Not what you're thinking. This was the process of the plant creating sugars for nutrients hence the *Sugar*. The *sex* was all about how we propagate plants: Seeds, Cuttings, and how we can help this along by taking pollen from one flower and dusting it on the stamens of another flower. This works great for day lilies. You get the picture and all of this was shown in photographs. A very interesting approach to a lesson on botany.

The second presentation I attended was Appalachian Culture and West Virginia Botanical Gems: Native Orchids. They have 44 species of native orchids and to grow these plants need fungi in the soils. Along with pictures of these orchids, he told a little of the Appalachian culture of the area where the orchids grow. This area was settled by people of Scotch and Irish descent. Very interesting and some beautiful orchids.

The last program I attended was on Garden Photography by Wil Hershberger. Very interesting and hopefully I will be able to use some of the information he gave us. Some good information, but I didn't have camera with me to try the recommendations out. I am hoping to be able to transfer this and do some experimenting with my camera.

Hope more of you can go in 2013. It is a cruise to Alaska, start saving now, what a great time we will have.

Reminders

We still need a few committee chair reports and budget requests for next year. Please turn these in as soon as you can. Next year's budget will be drafted soon, so we need your requests for 2012 to complete it. Thanks for your prompt attention.



2012 Calendar Meeting

See you all at Panera Bread on Friday, November 18, 9:00 am for the calendar meeting. At this meeting the 2012 calendar is scheduled with our events and meetings that we already have set. In addition you may schedule your committee meetings, if you already have the dates. This helps us avoid conflicts with dates when we have two or more meetings going on at the same time. Make sure someone is there to represent your committee if the chair has conflicts.

Annual Holiday Decorations Workshop

The Holiday Workshop will be Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the large conference room. You will have the opportunity to make a door decoration or a table decoration: live greenery, bows and berries will be provided. Lunch is included. Items you may wish to bring include gloves, pruners, needle nose pliers, and any special decoration you wish to use. If doing a table decoration and have a container you would like to use, bring it with you. We will have gold bowls for containers. The cost is \$45.00. Please reserve your spot early as space is limited and reservations have already begun arriving. Bring your sister or a friend; it is a great way to start the season.

End of Year

I just want to say thank you to all of you for the great year we had. You worked tirelessly in some pretty tough conditions this year and the end result was the gardens never looked better. Both the Gateway Learning Gardens and the Utzinger Garden were spectacular.

This year's events were very successful: Garden Fling increased their attendance; Perennial Plant and Barn Sale drew a great crowd, The Fair Flower Show went off without a hitch, and finally but not least, the Gateway Garden Jubilee had record attendance. What more can we ask for? I know what I would ask for. THAT YOU ALL COME BACK NEXT YEAR!!!! You are the greatest.

Education Committee Meeting

Friday, November 4, 2011 at the small conference room from 1 - 3 pm. Discussion will be on programs for the coming year. Everyone welcome.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FIELD TRIALS / GREENHOUSE

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who came down to the greenhouse and helped clean, plant, water, lug, carry and move plants for the last 5 years.

When I raised my hand to say that I could “water the plants” for Carolyn, who could no longer devote so much time there, I had no idea how much fun I would have.

I have learned so much about caring for plants in a closed environment. Let me tell you, there’s a lot to learn and just like in any garden, whether it be outside or inside, every year is different.

I not only learned from the park’s horticulture director Steve Hawkins but from each and every one of you who walked through the door.

I especially want to thank my co-chairs who were all extremely helpful over the years: Barb Brown, Diane Catenacci, Nancy Best, Joyce Studebaker and Marilyn Hinderer. I really could not have done it without you. Loyal, hard workers... everyone!

To Pam and Carolyn, thanks for the opportunity but now I am passing on the “watering” and hope you have as much fun as I did.

Sincerely,
Sally Day

GARDEN FLING 2011

I cannot believe it is time to be talking about our fundraiser but here we are. The first organizational meeting will be Monday, November 14th, at 1:00 to 3:00, at the Extension in the large conference room. We have the place, Kenton Ridge High School, the date April 7th- the first Saturday, the food, and the chairs for the committees and now we need you. Everyone is welcome to the meeting to express your concerns and ideas so please feel free to attend. We will need everyone on board to get things arranged and set up. If you know some garden vendors that might like this type of garden show please give Ed Wozniak their name and contact information. We hope to see you at the meeting and thanks in advance for your support.

Fred Rufener and Jean Rickards

PERENNIAL COMMITTEE

While most of us are groaning about the September rains, our newly renovated shade garden is shouting “Hallelujah!” Admittedly, we can heave a sigh of relief for the plants after a hatefully hot, dry summer! But the down-side is that the weeds are having a hey day! Hopefully, by the time we all read this, the Gateway Learning Gardens will be looking neat and clean. We urge any who would like to get a jump on MGV hours to come out to the Perennial gardens and continue to remove weeds on nice days. It’s going to be a long winter so let’s keep ahead of those pesky winter annual weeds as we keep ourselves fit and trim! Who doesn’t like a double bonus?! Remember that once we get a hard frost or freeze, there will be plenty of plants that must be cut back, so bring your pruners and shears.

Many Thanks to All!

Kathy McConkey and Dot Burkholder



FUNDRAISING

We will have a fundraising committee meeting November 14, from 3 - 4:30 p.m. in the small conference room. Please come with new and exciting possibilities for next year’s fundraising activities. All are welcome. We will have a report for this year.

Ruth Ann Rahim

EARLY OHIO SETTLERS GARDEN

The settlers have once again put their gardens to bed for another season. We had some successes and some failures but all in all another interesting growing season. I want to thank Nancy Best, Peggie Elsna, Joyce Studebaker and Becky Menozzi for helping with the clean-up. We had a wrap-up meeting following the clean-up and talked about next spring’s garden. What we plan to plant and where and what we would like to add to the beds. We discussed planting hops as beer was the common drink of the times (1800-1850). We hope to see you next spring in the gardens.

Jean Rickards

HELPLINE

Just about six more months till we start helpline again.

Q. Why was the gardener so busy over the weekend.....He had a really long Honeydew list.
Rick McKinstry

PLANT OF THE MONTH:

STATICE

Limonium (lih-MOAN-ee-um)

Statice is well known to flower arrangers. There are hardy perennial species but those grown as annuals are frost sensitive biennials or perennials that flower the first year from seed. The plants form a ground-hugging rosette of dark green, wavy, deeply lobed leaves followed by stiff, winged, nearly leafless bright green stems. The stems rise straight upward, then branch at the tips into a candelabra of one-sided flower clusters.



Annual statice has a long taproot that isn't easy to transplant, however, it is easy to grow from seed. Annual statice plants need up to 3 months from when the seed is planted to the start of flowering, so indoor sowing would seem to be preferable. Start 8 to 10 weeks before the last frost and cover seeds lightly. Sow the seed into peat pots or into standard trays and transplant to individual pots when they get their second set of leaves (before the taproot forms).

Plant in full sun after all danger of frost is past and night temperatures remain about 45 degrees F. Plant 8 to 9 inches apart for a full garden look. For use as cut flowers, the stems will mangle less if you plant them about 1 foot apart. Well drained soil is critical. Statice grows well in sandy soil and is native to seashores. They will take salt air and high winds in stride. They like hot, dry summers but don't like hot and humid areas and will grow poorly in rainy climates.

Statice will be at its prime for about 6 weeks in the garden. Then the calyces will start to fade and become less attractive. Deadheading won't help to stimulate any repeat bloom. Harvest the plants for indoor use and grow spreading plants to fill in nearby areas.

Statice is a good cut flower and will last over 2 weeks in fresh arrangements, but its greatest value is as a dried flower. Hang the cut stems upside down in open bunches until dry, usually in a few weeks. Perfect drainage and good air circulation can help alleviate leaf diseases in hot, humid areas.
Dot Burkholder



FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS 'THANK YOU'

Once again the Clark County Master Gardeners stepped up to the plate when asked to supply the floral arrangements for the Farm Science Review Annual Luncheon. The 77 arrangements were positively beautiful and we received compliments for a great job.

Thanks to the Master Gardeners that supplied flowers from their home gardens. Special thanks to Peggie Elsna, Lois O'Keefe and Becky Miller for meeting me at Gateway on Sunday afternoon to cut flowers and greenery. Special thanks to Diane Catenacci for her expert advise and inspiration. Many thanks to Peggie Elsna, Becky Miller, Lois O'Keefe, Dea Rucker, Judy Wessel, Judy Niggemeyer, Marilyn Hinderer, Terry Reid, Susie Anderson, Nancy Best, Diane Catenacci, Debbie Henry, Debbie Dean. Special thanks also to Nancy Best & Dea Rucker for taking pictures. I hope I didn't miss anyone, if I did please let me know.

You are all amazing - such beautiful arrangements!! It is crazy to think we could make 77 floral arrangements and we did it in just 3 hours. And, WE HAD FUN DOING IT TOGETHER!!

THANKS AGAIN,
Natheta Mercer

“Food Fight”

We won in filling up the barrels at Second Harvest Food Bank! Below is the thank you note:

Dear Clark County Agricultural Agencies,
“Thank you so much for participating in our Harvest Run 4 Hunger “Food Fight.” Your building collected 2 ½ barrels of food totaling 372 pounds of food. This much needed food will make a difference to so many people in need in our community. Congratulations!” Anna Plataniotis

NOVEMBER'S PRE-PERFORMANCE DINNER AT WOMAN'S TOWN CLUB

The season's second Pre-performance dinner is:
Saturday, November 12th
at the Woman's Town Club,
805 East High Street

You can't find a nicer way to spend a Saturday evening in Springfield...a delicious dining experience in an elegant home followed by beautiful music presented by the Springfield Symphony.

MENU

Garden Salad with Cranberries
Oven Roasted Turkey with Dressing
Or
Yankee Pot Roast
Smashed Red Skin Potatoes
Green Beans
Bread
Dessert
Pumpkin Pie
Or
Chocolate Cake



Serving from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (so that you can get to the Kuss Auditorium in time for the performance) you are sure to be pleased. You may place a reservation for dinner even if not attending the evening's performance.

Dinner (\$25.00) includes full-course dinner, dessert, and a complimentary glass of wine, tax and gratuity.



Herb of the Month:

HYSSOP (*Hyssopus officinalis*)

Hyssop, a member of the mint family, is native to Southern Europe eastward to Central Asia and grown for its medicinal, and



aesthetic qualities rather than for culinary use. I usually write about herbs I've grown, but this is an herb I don't know anything about, so I learned a lot. It is often confused with another member of the mint family *Agastache foeniculum* (anise hyssop) a native of North America.

According to folklore, Romans used it in healing practices and purification ceremonies of churches and leprous houses. Hyssop's word origin from both the Hebrew and Greek suggests its use as a "holy herb." It is mentioned in the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments. "Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean..." (Psalm 51:7) is probably the best known passage. Hyssop was often planted in monastery gardens, not only for its holy uses, but for its medicinal properties and to flavor their liqueurs.

Fertile, slightly alkaline and well drained soil and a sunny sheltered spot are requirements to successfully grow this plant. While the seed germinates rapidly, hyssop is a very slow grower and is best propagated by summer cuttings or by root division in the spring or fall. It is a semi evergreen hardy perennial, shrub like plant hardy in zones 4 to 9. Hyssop is often used as a boxwood substitute in herb or ornamental knot gardens. When used as a hedge, it should be pruned back hard in the early spring to prevent its becoming shaggy.

The flowers of *H. officinalis* range from blue, purple and pink, to white, depending on the variety. They are attractive to bees and other pollinators. The funnel shaped, two lipped flowers are whorled on square stemmed spikes with narrow mid-green leaves.

The odor of hyssop is strong and described as camphor-like. As a medicinal plant, hyssop has expectorant, stimulant, carminative and antiseptic qualities. Medicinal uses include adding to a steam bath to relieve rheumatic pain and, using as a poultice as a remedy

for bruising. When used as syrup or an infusion, hyssop is said to ease coughs, colds, influenza and chest congestion. It was used as a strewing herb in sick rooms as early as the seventh century.


Pliny mentions in the first century that it was used in making the wine *hyssopites*. Its oil is a key ingredient in the liqueurs *Benedictine* and *Chartreuse*. Hyssop with its bitter, hint of mint flavor is supposed to be good for a seasoning for meat dishes, stuffings and stews. The fresh flowers are said to be delicious in salads. The green top of the herb, leaves, stems and flowers are used in teas. It is said to bring out the flavor of apricots.

Hyssop should not be used in any form during pregnancy.

Peggie Elsnau

Sources:

Herb Gardening for the Midwest	Knapke and Peters
The Herbal Tea Garden	Marietta Marcin
The Complete Book of Herbs	Lesley Bremness
The Herb Bible	Jennie Harding
The Country Diary Herbalist	Sarah Hollis
Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs	
various internet sources	



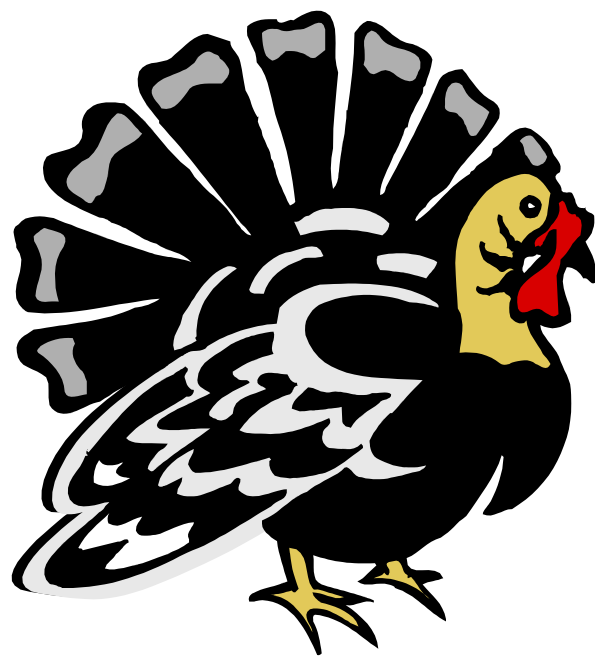
"How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colors gleaming in the sun.

At other times, they wildly fly
Until they nearly reach the sky.
Twisting, turning through the air
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.
Exhausted, drop to earth below
To wait, like children, for the snow."

- Elsie N. Brady, Leaves



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Garden Clean Up Wednesday November 2nd 9 - Noon



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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