

CLINTON COUNTY COMPOST



November -
December, 2009



Ohio State University Extension Clinton County

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Next
COMPOST
Deadline:
December 26

Please submit items in MS Word
format to
Judy Grosvenor at:
grosvenor.judy@hotmail.com

President's Ponderings

The many changes of this fall season are upon us. The colors of the leaves, the bareness of the trees, the winds sweeping debris to flight and the rains battering their remains to the ground. When the sun shines, the weather appears beautiful. When the clouds darken the skies, the yellows and grays seem to overwhelm our thoughts and feelings. But change, like all seasons, brings new life and expectations to our future.

I see many things happening in our small organization that show promise that we are continuing to grow and becoming more recognizable in the community. Our outreach to the community through programs such as: Hort 101, plant sales, educational classes, Farmers Market, Denver Park and working with community projects has given us reason to feel proud of what we have accomplished.

Winter will soon be upon us. Outside, garden activities may come to a halt, but this will not stop us from continuing to make future plans.

We have new ideas and programs in the making. The Ash Tree Seed Collecting program on November 19th and our Holiday Banquet on December 1st will take the place of our regular monthly meeting. I hope everyone will be able to attend these activities.

During our banquet I am looking forward to personally thanking you for being part of the Master Gardener organization. Every one of you has a unique talent. Sharing your talents with us has help strengthen our organization. For this you should be given recognition. Come share with us on this Tuesday evening!



ettyanne Short

C. C. M. G. President

Minutes: *Clinton County Master Gardener Association* *October 22, 2009*

Meeting called to order at 7:10 by President Betty Ann Short.

11 members in attendance: Betty Ann Short, Joanne Weston, Judy Grosvenor, Cass Weisman, Connie Hardie, Doris Tillinghast, Juanita Tigar, Mary Helen Mack, Ken Gray, Dori Sabino and late arrival by Ray Koch.

President's Report: short overview of tonight's agenda. Reminder that the volunteer hours required for on going maintenance of Master Gardener status, are due the end of the association's fiscal year, October 31, 2009. All members are encouraged to check the book to make sure the recorded hours are accurate.

Secretary's Report: *In the last Compost newsletter.*

Treasurer's Report: *No update.*

Continuing Business:

Denver Park Project: Dori contacted Scott Parrish and the bulbs are on order but haven't been received as of yet. However due to poor weather conditions predicted for next weekend, volunteers to plant bulbs are asked to meet at the park on Thursday, Oct. 29th at 10 am to get the 700 bulbs in the ground. That leaves just short of \$100 for purchase of spring annuals for 2010. Scott had expressed interest to Joanne that we would be invited to develop other areas of the park for next year. Dori is willing to do another Park project if the group will support it and the park will maintain it. She suggests a site for a children's garden adjacent to the duck pond. Discussion to ensue at a later date next year as members review.

Farmer's Markets: Joanne Weston reported that the last meeting for this year on the market has been completed and by and large, a successful year was had by all. Suggestions and improvements for next year may include adding more artisans and musicians, additional parking annexed in the City's lot adjacent and continuation of the popular General Denver's \$5 breakfast special.

State Conference Master Gardener Nominations: Dori Sabino, Karen Kayser and Bettyanne Short attended the conference on October 10th and 11th at the Great Wolf Lodge in Kings Island. The 'small group' project division we entered was won by the Smiley Children's Garden, VanWert County Master Gardeners. Dori commented she felt the conference was great, but classes not found as interesting as in past years.

CommPost: published every other month, everyone is reminded to email any information or pertinent articles to Judy Grosvenor for publication.

New Business:

Sunshine Person: Juanita will mail cards signed by members in attendance, to be send to Lawton Gerlinger. He is greatly missed at our meetings.

Save our Seeds – Ash Tree Program November 19th at 7 pm: This special program, open to the public, will be held at the extension office. Joanne passed around flyer's and has distributed some around the community and will be submitting an article to the Wilmington News Journal. Judy is helping with PR and Dori will head up refreshments for the evening, assisted by Cass Wiesman, Bettyanne Short and Ken Gray. Dori will be providing a flower arrangement for the B&B stay in trade for accommodations for our speaker, Steve Crawford and spouse. Members are to arrive at the office by 6 pm to help set up the room and for a brief meeting, since this would be our meeting night for November.

Christmas Get Together: Will be Tuesday, December 1st , 6:30 pm at the Spillway Lodge. Menu selection sign up will be available at the Nov. 19th meeting so Karen may have info required by the restaurant. Suggestion of a donation for charity instead of gift exchange was motioned by Cass. Vote of 5 to 6 to continue gift exchange of a (\$10) limit gift and also to make a free will donation for charity was passed ---(charity to be selected at the January meeting). Heffer International and other charities were discussed.

General Announcements:

Election: The nominating committee headed up by Bettyanne presented a slate of nominees for voting; results as follows:

President: JoAnne Weston*

V.President: Dori Sabino*

Secretary: Cindy Halye* and Cass Wiesman

Treasurer: Karen Kayser and Judy Grosvenor* (*means elected)

Installation of new officers to occur at the December Christmas meeting.

Joanne moved to adjourn at 8:40 pm and seconded by Connie. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Dori Sabino, assistant secretary.



FROM TONY...

Hi, Gang! As we round out 2009 and head into 2010, I want to thank all of you for making this year one of the most productive!!!! I want to encourage all of you that as Master Gardener Volunteers it is critical to get advanced training in order to keep up with the many horticultural issues and programs. Your knowledge in the subject of horticulture will be looked upon even more as a resource to help extension continue to serve our home hort. clientele as we struggle through county and state budgets with fewer extension educators in many of our counties.

Keeping the Master Gardener program alive will be critical. Barb Mills of Greene County Extension has graciously agreed to provide training to those interested in becoming Master Gardeners. The program will begin February 4th and be every Thursday through April 8th. in Greene Co. Be there at 8:30 am for announcements, coffee, etc. and the morning class will start at 9:00 and end at 3:30. It will be critical to help her with her program if in fact we have Volunteers training from Clinton Co. I encourage you to promote this program to those interested in becoming Master Gardener Volunteers. All of the information is at Greene.osu.edu within the Master Gardener information on their website. The section of Most frequently asked Questions is where much of the information like costs, application process, finger printing etc... Those going through the Greene Co. educational classes from Clinton County will be expected to come back to Clinton County to fulfill their 50 hours of Volunteering and become MG volunteers of Clinton County.

Again, Thank you for a great year and I encourage you to set your standards high for another productive and successful 2010.

Sincerely, *Tony*



THANK YOU:

A special thank you to the volunteers who came out and helped plant the 800 bulbs and plants at the Denver Park project. Joanne Weston, Dori Sabino, Bettyanne Short, Ken Gray, Connie Hardie, Doris Tillinghast and Judy Grosvenor. It was a beautiful sunny fall day. Great work!

DATES TO REMEMBER AND ATTEND:

SAVE OUR SEEDS!

Ash Tree Seed Collection Project!

SPEAKER: Steve Crawford, National Resources Conservation Service
A Division of the U.S. Forest Service

WHAT: Seminar to discuss the initiative and demonstrate the collection process of collecting seeds from the Ash Trees for future preservation

WHEN: Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 PM
Program to last approximately 1 hour

WHERE: Clinton County Extension Office
111 S. Nelson Ave
Wilmington, Ohio 45177
Telephone: 937-382-0901

The National Resource Conservation Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is seeking **VOLUNTEERS** to help collect the seed before the insect does more damage. This **free** program will teach anyone how to collect the seeds. The best time for collection is November and December.

We lost the Chestnut tree to blight; the Elm tree to disease. For our children's sake, help us to preserve the seed of the Ash Tree so they will not be lost to future generations. Ash trees occupy about 12 percent of all of Ohio's trees. **Please join us for this short program, tell your friends, neighbors and church to join us. You can be a part of the solution.**

December 1, 2009: Our Christmas Holiday Banquet will be on Dec. 1st at 6:30 pm

at the Spillway lodge off St Rt 730. Be sure that your volunteer hours have been turned into Tony. Karen and/or Bettyanne are taking the reservations and menu selections.

There will be a gift exchange (\$10 limit) and a free will charity donation taken. Join us for an evening of fun.

GO GREEN...

Do you have an idea or method to help go green in the garden or around the home? Please share your ideas with us. Here are a few:

Ideal use for plastic grocery bags is to wear them over your gardening shoes. They are easy to slip off.

Recycle a half-gallon plastic milk jug to make a scoop for birdseed – the handle is already built in.

PLANT OF THE MONTH..



Evergreens for the Holidays

For centuries, evergreen trees and boughs have been used to celebrate the winter solstice. Evergreens have always symbolized the promise of plant rebirth in spring. The custom of using evergreens as decoration traditionally marks the Christmas season. At one time all "Christmas trees" were cut from natural forest stands, but today almost 98% are grown on plantations.

To insure their freshness, beauty and safety through the season, take appropriate steps in selection, conditioning and care of trees and greens. Warm indoor temperatures and low humidity will cause desiccation unless certain measures are taken at the outset. The firs and pines stand up best indoors while certain species like hemlock and spruce are notorious for dropping their needles. All trees and greens will hold up better if they are conditioned and kept well watered.

SELECTION: Obtain your tree early in the season before it begins to dry out in the open tree lot. Measure the ceiling height where the tree is to be placed to be sure that it is at least one foot shorter; this also compensates for the height of the tree stand. When you gently pull a branch toward you, the needles of the tree should be pliable and bend, but not break. Shake the tree and bounce the trunk on its stump to test for freshness; if more than a few needles drop, put the tree back and try another. By shaking and bouncing the tree, insects and other foreign objects will also be dislodged.

PREPARATION AND CONDITIONING: After the tree is brought home, make a fresh cut ¼" above the end of the trunk to facilitate water absorption and wrap the end in a damp towel until it is placed in a bucket of water. Every four hours that a tree is out of water a new dried seal forms which will prevent the tree from absorbing water. Spray your tree with an anti-desiccant to reduce drying and transpiration. Store it in a cool place either outdoors or indoors until it is ready to be set up. Make a new cut across

the trunk ¼" above the dried seal of the original cut. Place the tree in a sterilized stand that will hold at least one gallon of water, as a newly placed tree can absorb up to a gallon of water the first day. Be sure that the bottom of the trunk is continually immersed and that the water is checked and replenished daily. Set up the tree in the coolest part of the room: away from the fireplace, TV set, heater, and other heat sources.

To condition evergreen branches to be used for holiday decoration, wash them thoroughly in warm water to remove dust and dirt, then rinse them in cold water. Remove any defective leaves and needles and split the stems about 2-3" up from the ends. Place the material in warm water and store in cool temperatures for at least eight hours prior to use. Keep the water level high by replacing any water that has evaporated in the container.

CARE AND PRESERVATION: All evergreen material will last longer if conditioned prior to use. Storing it in cool temperatures before bringing into a heated room will make a difference when you set up the tree or make wreaths, garlands or holiday arrangements. A tree in a warm room can absorb several quarts per day, so keep the reservoir well supplied with water.

FIREPROOFING: Use only UL approved lights and fireproof decorations. Check wiring before plugging into outlets. Turn off the tree lights when leaving home and before you go to sleep. If needles do dry out, creating a fire hazard, remove decorations and immediately remove the tree from your home. Needles are dry when they are dull, gray-green and do not exude sap when broken. Remember that all evergreens kept cool and moist will be much more resistant to fire.

RECYCLING OPTIONS: Trees are recyclable when taken down. If you have a wood chipper, grind the tree into mulch for use on your garden beds and for composting. Many municipalities collect used evergreen trees and use them for compost. Check with local sanitation departments for collection and/or drop-off days.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS: A living potted or balled and burlapped tree offers a viable alternative to the cut tree. The indoor environment will be very harsh for a living tree, so it is best not to keep it indoors for longer than five days. To insure success, keep the pot or ball of the tree well watered during the entire time. After indoor display, avoid exposing the tree to the shock of midwinter temperatures and conditions. You can reacclimatize it gradually by placing it in an unheated garage for several days.

Choose a permanent location for the tree and prepare a planting hole well in advance before the ground is frozen. Keep the prepared backfill soil thawed and covered. Plant and water the tree right away and be sure to mulch it heavily to delay frost penetration. If you are unable to plant right away, heel in the tree for winter with a heavy mulch of wood chips and compost, in order to delay planting until early spring.

From *The New York Botanical Garden* at: www.nybg.org.



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Calling all Farmer's Market Volunteers!

Farmer's Market meetings have started and the markets will be starting in June. Master Gardener contacts are needed at the markets to help support and provide information to the vendors. Check in with Tony Nye or Joanne Weston to see where you can help.



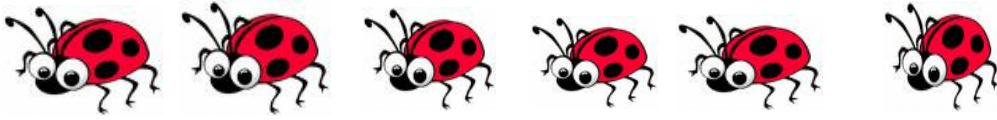
Don't forget the Extension Hort. Hotline this summer.

At the start and through the growing season, many questions will need to be answered for the public. Give the office a call--(937) 382-0901 to volunteer when extra help is needed. No particular days have to be scheduled and work may be done during regular office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Your help is needed to keep the Annex Gardens Beautiful!!!

Now that fall is in the air, we need to give our garden a clean up and boost. Call the Extension Office or stop by the Garden to see if you can contribute to keeping it green and growing.





BOOKS:

