

CLINTON COUNTY COMPOST



September -
October, 2009



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Clinton County**

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Next

COMPOST

Deadline:

October 25

**Please submit items in MS Word
format to**

**Judy Grosvenor at:
grosvenor.judy@hotmail.com**

President's Ponderings

I believe the people who were able to attend the summer trip, in July, enjoyed the activities. It was a beautiful sunny day. We saw the gardens at the governor's mansion in Columbus. At Cosi, we saw a garden of Ohio native plants and a rain garden. Lunch was on our own at the Market Place. Some of us also went to the park to see topiary plants shaped like people and animals.

Earlier in the month there was a "Garden SOS Alert" for our new area at the Denver Williams Park. After 6.5 hours of labor we now have a garden to be proud of. I want to thank all who were able to attend the weeding of this garden. I have never seen such healthy weeds! It was a lot of pulling and tugging to get the job done. But it sincerely needed the work. I hope once we get the garden maintenance schedule going we will not have such a weed alert. I understand more mulch will be on the plots by the time this letter is read. The new college students were to help with this activity. Hopefully that will also help reduce the emergence of the weeds.

It was great seeing everyone at our meeting in August. The yummy garden treasures that were brought were well appreciated, and delicious!

Remember to sign up for the state conference in October. Our garden at Denver Park has been nominated for recognition at the conference. It will be interesting to see how well we compare with the other countys' nominations.



Bettyanne Short

C. C. M. G. President

Minutes: Clinton County Master Gardener Association August 27, 2009

Meeting brought to order by Bettyanne Short.

Everyone was asked to sign in for an address, telephone, and e-mail update sheet.

Secretary's Report: Cindy Halye from the May 28, 2009 meeting given.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Magella Current balance of \$3,077.36. Karen's last deposit, our final portion of plant sale profit was \$623.70 although that included some dues paid the day of the sale.

Continuing Business:

Denver Park Project: The garden became over grown this summer. Parks and Recreation's weeding was not adequate. Several Master Gardeners spent extra time removing weeds to improve garden's appearance. Bettyanne recently spoke with Scott Parrish. College group was to add mulch to bed areas.

Dori Sabino plans to go over her maintenance recommendations listed and agreed to on the budget utilization form she gave to Parks and Recreation in June. It was clear that they were to maintain by watering and weeding as needed.

Discussion followed as to our desire to take permanent responsibility for weeding. Straw vote taken: almost everyone willing to do some weeding but would like Dori to reemphasize to 'Parks and Recreation' their agreement to keep it up. Connie Hardie frequently passes the garden and will call and arrange a weeding group if necessary. A sign up sheet for Connie was passed around.

Annex Garden: Similar issue as Denver garden. All Master Gardeners were requested to check it and weed when we have time.

Farmer's Markets: Joanne Weston reported that she is usually at the Saturday market and it is going well. The Market brochure has been completed and printed. Joanne had a copy for each Master Gardener. Laura Curliss provided the printing for free. Joanne has distributed the brochure to the library, banks, YMCA, and at the Market itself. Well done advertising brochure.

Master Gardener Logo Shirts: Karen brought up past interest in purchasing Master Gardener logo shirts. She will bring catalog from Quali-Tees next time.

State Conference Master Gardener Nominations: The State Conference is October 2 and 3. Sign up can be online. Project nominations have been divided into areas competing by county Master Gardener organization size. We will compete in the small group category.

A display of the project is needed for conference. Bettyanne and Connie requested help in developing the posters for this. A tri-fold board will be used.

Conference door prizes are also provided by individual Master Gardener groups. Ray Koch requested that Clinton County prepare one. Mary Helen Mack offered to organize it. It will be needed by October 2 in order to get it to conference. Any members who would like to contribute items may do so.

New Business:

Backyard and Local Gardens Specialization: Karen requested reimbursement of her \$250.00 fee to attend this specialization. She gave a brief report on what is involved and has been presented while taking the workshop.

Question raised about local group covering member's costs. Brief discussion concerning past precedent for doing so. Hazel Niles: Motion to reimburse Karen and Ann for their fees. All in favor. Passed.

Sunshine Person: Question raised about a sunshine person for the group. Juanita Tigar was previously. She agreed to act in that position if needed. Her contact info is to be in next CommPost. Will be removed for website posting.

Christmas Get Together: Discussion of location and date for our annual party. Consensus: To hold it on Tuesday, December 1, 2009. Karen to contact The Spillway and make arrangements for around 6:30 pm.

General Announcements:

EAB: Mention made that Greene County now officially has the emerald ash borer.

Poison Ivy: Joanne mentioned an effect scrub for use against poison ivy contact: Cortaid Poison Ivy Scrub. Mention made that Secret Antiperspirant (dry stick) will stop itching.

MG Zoo Program: Judy Grosvenor mentioned the Master Gardener Zoo program will take place on September 3. \$10 admission.

Joanne moved to adjourn. Hazel seconded. Meeting adjourned. *Respectfully submitted:*
Cindy Halye, secretary.

From TONY...

Hi, Gang! The weather has just been fabulous and now Fall is upon us and there are still many things to do outside. I want to thank all of you for having one of the most productive summers with projects and events as we have ever had. For those of you going to the State Master Gardener, enjoy it, gather some good ideas and be prepared to share those ideas with the group.

There are lots of issues with gardens and landscape because of the more damp and cooler year. Be looking around your own yards and gardens and take note for future reference for next year's growing season

Happy Gardening
Tony

THANK YOU:

A special thank you this month to Joanne Weston for her hard work, and beautiful and informative Market brochures for the Farmer's Market. Great work Joanne!





PLANT OF THE MONTH...

Milkweeds

In the days before World War II, farm fields were home to many weeds. Hoeing and mechanical cultivation were not always successful in eliminating the problem.

Some of the "bad" plants were milkweeds. The tall, stout plants were often taller than the crops themselves such as wheat. These days with use of modern day herbicides, most crop fields are clean.

Now milkweeds are one of the "good" plants. Gardeners are being encouraged to plant milkweeds for their fragrance and food for butterflies. An assortment of insects use the nectar of the plants, while monarch butterflies use milkweeds as their only source of food for their caterpillars.

The common milkweed is the species that most people are familiar. The plant has bold, gray-green foliage and drooping umbels of flowers that are some shade of pink, rose or lavender. The plant is often seen in groups of stalks due to underground rhizomes.

The American Indian showed early settlers how to utilize milkweeds. The milky sap was used to treat warts and moles. The ground-up roots were used as poultices on open sores. After gathering roots and leaves in the fall, a tea was made to induce vomiting for a ill person.

Stems of milkweeds were used to make fishing lines, string and rope, lamp wicks and fine thread that could be woven into cloth. Paper was also made from the plant stalk. Pillows and mattresses were stuffed with silky strands fastened to the seed. Milkweeds are bitter and toxic and considered poisonous. Indians used the young sprouts and young warty seed pods as pot herbs. With adequate blanching in preparation for them to be used as foods, the poison was eliminated.

During World War II, the milkweed sap was tried as a substitute for rubber, but the experiment was not very successful. However, the U.S. Government found a use for the silken fibers from the seed pods and called all citizens, young and old, to gather dried seed pods. The fibers are five to six times more buoyant than cork, and were used in life jackets. It made a warm, light-weight lining for flight jackets.

There are many other species of milkweeds growing around the world. Locally, the swamp milkweed is one of our very attractive plants with flowers the color of raspberry sherbert.

Another local one is the whorled milkweed that has linear leaves in whorls of three to six. This dainty plant has white flowers. Probably the brightest milkweed in gardens and prairies is the butterfly weed, sometimes called pleurisy root. It has fragrant orange flowers that the monarch butterfly and other butterflies use as a nectar plant.

By Jean Klein, Master Gardener.



2009 WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, & SEMINARS:

Fall happenings:

Indian Summer is here and you can 'smell' fall in the air. Beautiful leaf colors and apple cider, fairs and festivals. There are festivals for corn, sunflowers, popcorn, beans, apples, potatoes, sauerkraut, herbs, and pumpkins. So take the family, enjoy the great weather and go out and have a good time.

Below is a garden tour being presented by Marianne Pohlmann of Buckeye Charters; most leaving from the Xenia Walmart. For more information contact by email:

Marianne@buckeyecharters.com or by calling 937 313 7847. *Franklin Park Conservatory & Governor's Mansion and Heritage Garden; Columbus, Ohio Tuesday, September 15*

Franklin Park Conservatory is a popular destination for groups interested in the world of plants, the Conservatory's art exhibitions, and historic Franklin Park. An exhibition of Dale Chihuly's glass artwork will be displayed once again beginning July 4, 2009, along with new work by this world-renowned artist in an exhibition titled Chihuly Reimagined. A boxed lunch will be provided on the grounds. After lunch, we will drive down the street to the beautiful Governor's Mansion and Heritage Garden. Our tour will be led by Pam Bennett, OSU Extension State Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator, OSU horticulturist for Clark County and the President of the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden. Tour Cost: \$45 per person.

Clinton Co. Corn Festival – September 11-13th at the Clinton Fairgrounds in Wilmington, Oh.

Sunflower Street Fair - September 11-12th in Milford, Oh. www.downtownmilford.com.

Popcorn Festival – September 12-13th in Beavercreek. 937-427-5514.

Old West Festival – Sept. 12 – Oct. 11th. Weekends on SR 32 and Eastwood Rd. Check out: www.oldwestfest.com.

Bean Festival – Sept. 18-19th in Jamestown, Oh.

Scarecrow Festival – Sept. 18-20th in Washington CH, Oh. 740-636-2354.

Caesar Creek Pioneer Village – Sept. 19-20th with Civil War reenactment.

Country Living Fair – Sept. 18-20th in Columbus, Oh. Check: www.countryliving.com.

Old Clifton Days – Sept. 25-26th in Clifton Mills, Oh. 937-767-1767.

Apple Festival – Sept. 26th in Lebanon, Oh.

September 26 - Tall Grass Prairie Tour at Plum Run Preserve presented by the Arc of Appalachia Preserve System, call 937-365-0101 **or visit** www.highlandssanctuary.org

Potato Festival – October 3-4th in Springvalley, Oh.

Wheat Ridge Olde Thyme Herb Fair – October 10-11th in West Union, Oh. 937-544-8252 or hekb@earthlink.net.

Sauerkraut Festival – October 10-11th in Waynesville, Oh. Check www.sauerkrautfestival.com



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:

Fall is an excellent time to plant shrubs and trees. Check with your local nursery for special sales.

Fall is also a great time for planting fall vegetables, like cabbages, radishes, lettuces and turnips. Extend your family's food supply.

Keep up with your composting. A good recipe for compost is two parts brown or woody to one part green, soft materials. Pile up fall leaves and chop them with your lawn mower so they compost more quickly.

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For those persons with special interest in hummingbirds, there is a web site to watch their return in the US: www.hummingbirds.net/map.html.

Check out the local Clinton Co. website: <http://energizecc.com> for their garden blog.

Check out the Spring Grove Cemetery website for many tours and events: www.springgrove.org.

Ohio State MGV website: <http://mastergardener.osu.edu>.

New website: <http://vegnet.osu.edu>



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BOOKS:

