'THE COMMPOST' NEWSLETTER

CLINTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Jan.– Feb., 2018

Ohio State University Extension - Clinton County
111 South Nelson Avenue
Suite 2
Wilmington, Ohio 45177
Phone: (937) 382-0901
L. Tony Nye
OSU Extension Educator
Agriculture/Natural Resources
www.clinton.osu.edu

Next *COMMPOST*
Deadline: Mar. 3

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

MARK YOU CALENDAR:

Feb. 22, 2018: MG meeting,Ext. Office - 6:30 pm.
Mar. 22, 2018: MG meeting,Ext. Office - 6:30 pm.
April 26, 2018: MG meeting, Ext. Office - 6:30 pm.
May 11/12, 2018: Plant Sale.

"Away in a meadow all covered with snow
The little old groundhog looks for his shadow
The clouds in the sky determine our fate
If winter will leave us all early or late."

- Don Halley

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE...

Letter to:

Hello, Fellow MG's,

We looked to the close of the year 2017 and remember all the events of the past year. We continued with repeats of great projects like our annual May plant sale and educational programs and the Pollinator Hunt in June for eight days. We were able to complete one of the two Habitat for Humanity homes, educate and planting, with one home to complete in the spring as weather warms up. Our Food Forest Demo Garden won a state award in the Backyard and Garden categorize. We continued with helping in clean up days in the community, keeping the urns at Denver Park looking good, handling hotline calls this summer, doing educational presentations at the library. We have completed another MG training class. We have also, started a new community garden project.

We ended December with MG President Cindy Halye handing over the reins to new President Jeff Drapalik. He and his team of officers will lead, direct and plan our MG programs for the next two years. We also, said good-bye to our MG members: Juanita Tiger and Doris Tillinghast, this year. We will miss them, greatly.

We turn to the New Year, 2018, with excitement and high hopes. We have five new MG interns to get to know and work with and many projects and educational opportunities to come. So, embrace the joys of the season and start planning your new MG volunteer year.
See you in the New Year, 2018!

Judy

Minutes: *Clinton County Master Gardener Association. Jan. 25, 2018*

In attendance: Tony Nye, Agr. Educator, via phone. Jeff Drapalik, Beverly Drapalik, Nicole Alexander, Cindy Halye and Judy Grosvenor.

President's Report: **Meeting** was opened by President, Jeff Drapalik. Call to order 6:30 pm.

Extension Report: Tony reported that the new MG training manual was received. And all five of our new interns have passed their tests. He apologize for lateness as he has been out of the office for a while. Also, the County Extension budget has been funded.

V. President's Report: no updates
Secretary Report: no updates.

Treasurer Report: Presented December financial report. Will be working on the budget.

Coordinator Report: had 767 MG hours reported in the VMS system. Some with just the minimum hours required. Would like to see more involvement on the many projects through the year.

Current projects and business updates:

Wilmington Community Gardens: Meeting in Feb. with CCYC and WIC. Gavin Park was not liked for gardens. WIC is interested in back Extension area for small plot.

May 12th Plant Sale: Nursey license has been applied for with State MG. Juanita's daughter, Jackie, will provide the plants for the May sale. Jeff & Bev to work on plant list. Jeff check on new SSC greenhouse. Will need to look at 5-11 as set up date, trailers, and setting teaching classes.

Pollinator Week project: the group approved to do this project again this year. Will need to get started on this one.

Educational Sessions: Discussed presenting public educational sessions similar to monthly subjects at Brown County. Will also continue with short educational subjects after each MG meetings.

Habitat Houses: May have three homes to do for 2018. One, held over from 2017, to be done this Spring. Two homes planned in Blanchester for this year.

Denver Park/Food Forest Gardens: on the front entrance urns, we cover costs for winter season. Plans are to contact Park Manager Jermaine, and see if he has funding for spring and summer plants and if he wants us to plant.

Meeting adjourn, next meeting Feb. 22th, 2018. Respectfully submitted: Beverly Drapalik.

FROM TONY

Master Gardeners,

Our fearless leader has been very sick and in the hospital for a long time. He started with infection in a disc and unfortunately went from there. He is at the
OSU Wexner Medical Center, Room 1169, 11 West Doan Hall, 410 W. 10th Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43210. Not sure if he is allowed any visitors, with his intense condition.

You can send cards to his home: 4815 St. Rt. 753 SE, Washington CH. OH 45160. His wife Dika reports continued improvements, but taking many baby steps to getting well.

Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Judy

The Clinton County Master Gardeners

The CC Master Gardeners are a caring group and volunteer many hours in community education and gardening. Besides the various requests from the community for educational programs, we current support these projects: the May 12th plant sale and educational events, the food forest garden in Denver Park, the June Pollinator program with educational events, the Lake Cowen spring cleanup of pollinator garden, the fall Habitat Home, the back Ext. garden, front urns at Denver Pk. winter planting and the new Wilmington community gardens. We need volunteers to fill and work these programs. If you have not picked one or two projects from this list, please look at them, ask Jeff or Judy about them and commit your talents and time. We greatly appreciate your involvement.

It's Not Too Early To Get Outside

Winter is a time of forced inaction for many gardeners. The beds and borders, lawn, and vegetable garden are either wet with winter rains or buried beneath a mantle of snow. We spend our time musing over colorful catalogs and gardening magazines and dwell on daydreams of temperate days, blossoming flowers, and hands immersed in the earth. When the weather breaks and spring creeps into the flower beds, we champ at the bit to be outdoors again, even though the weather can be chilly. But don't let that stop you. A few days spent outdoors tending to chores will get your garden off to a great start.

The long weeks of winter can leave the yard littered with debris. The first task of spring cleanup is to walk the yard picking up twigs and other debris while being on the lookout for more serious problems, such as cotton like snow mold covering portions of the lawn or large broken branches in trees.

Once large fallen branches and other debris have been removed from the yard, rake the lawn to fluff the grass, improve aeration, and remove thatch. Fertilize warm season grasses a week or so after they begin to grow.

Many gardeners place evergreen boughs atop perennial beds in fall. The springiness of the branches helps to keep the weight of winter snows off the crowns of dormant plants and the dense needles help to protect root systems from frost heave. This is the time to remove the boughs and any other winter protection from beds and borders.

Early spring is also a good time to clean out wind-blown leaves tucked away in beds and borders and to remove last-season's foliage and flower stalks. To cut back old foliage, gently work your fingers through it to expose any tender green shoots, which often hide within the brown sheaths of old foliage. Use pruning shears to cut off the dead material an inch or two above the new growth.

This will help jump start your spring interest and gardens.
By: *Charles W.G. Smith*, *http://www.finegardening.com*

2018 WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, & SEMINARS:

Feb. 17, 2018: Home and Garden Show in both Cincinnati and Columbus, Oh. Both locals have many garden special classes that would count as educational hours, if you attend.

Mar.1, 2018: Thursday 6 – 7:30 pm Champaign Co. Hydrangea School. At Champaign Co. Ext., Urbana, Oh. Cost $30. For info: call 937-484-1526.

Mar. 17, 2018: Backyard Vegetable Garden Workshop. 9 am to 3:30 pm, at Springfield High School in Clark Co., cost $30. For info: call 937-521-3860.

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The Ohio Invasive Plants Council (OIPC) has posted on their website, www.oipc.info, new factsheets on some of the most problematic invasive plant species in Ohio. Check it out. Also other interesting websites:

This is our county Facebook link to:
https://www.facebook.com/clintoncountymastergardeners/

Ohio MG Volunteer system sign in: https://ohio.volunteersystem.org

Ohio State MGV website: http://mastergardener.osu.edu. And www.ohioline.osu.edu;
OSUE's 'Buckeye Yard and Garden on Line': *http://bygl.osu.edu/* and http://vegnet.osu.edu;
http://ourohio.org/home-gardens/ ; and http://www.hummingbirds.net/map.html.

MMMM

OSU Extension Clinton County
111 South Nelson Ave., Suite 2
Wilmington, OH 45177

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