

# 'THE COMMPOST' NEWSLETTER

## CLINTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS



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

March + April 2021

### Ohio State University Extension -

### Clinton County

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L. Tony Nye

OSU Extension Educator

Agriculture/Natural Resources

[www.clinton.osu.edu](http://www.clinton.osu.edu)

### Next *COMMPOST*

Deadline: April 16, 2021

Please submit items in MS Word  
Format to Nicole Alexander at:  
[nicolejanealexander@gmail.com](mailto:nicolejanealexander@gmail.com)

### **MARK YOU CALENDAR:**

**\*\* Due to the Covid-19  
restrictions, all meetings and  
gathering have been  
cancelled until further notice.**

### **Master Gardener Program OSU Extension Mission:**

The Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Program provides knowledge to and develops the leadership abilities of volunteers who, in turn, enable others to improve the quality of their lives by enhancing their home and community environments through horticultural education and activities.



All educational programs conducted by Ohio State University Extension are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender, age, and disability or Vietnam- era veteran statue.



## **Tony Nye, OSU AG Extension Educator**

Dear Master Gardeners

I hope this note finds you all doing well. Are you tired of winter yet? This has been another winter to remember not just because of the snow and the cold but because the Nye's in early February got the dreaded COVID-19. I am pleased to say it was very mild with minimal symptoms for each of us. No body felt bad for more than three or four days. We know we had it because 4 of 5 of us were tested and all tested positive. So – yes, I am ready for spring!

As we move closer to spring, which by the way is less than 25 days away now we are hopeful we can start getting back to a more normal routine here at the Extension Office. I am sure you are thinking the same thing for your situations. I think this will be a huge gardening year for many families and I think we will have lots of requests and opportunity to help families of Clinton County with their gardening needs.

I am challenging all of you with giving me some really good Gardening ideas that I can highlight in my weekly news column. As we get closer to March there are many things we can be doing to prepare for the gardening year. So put your thinking caps on and get me some really neat ideas to include in my column.

Finally, I want you - to VOTE – YES for a plant sale - NO to a plant sale. My phone number is 740-606-0031 or you can email me at [nye.1@osu.edu](mailto:nye.1@osu.edu). That means – no excuses for not letting me know. We need to start making plans if we are. I have some ideas on how to host the event and keep safe, so now I need to know what your thoughts are.

Until I hear from each of you – Be Safe, Be Happy, and Get Your Garden Thumbs Greened Up.

Tony

### ***From Jeff Drapalik, Clinton County Master Gardener President***

The cold weather and snow finally arrived. It was peaceful watching the snow slowly fall, building layer after layer. Each snow was different in our area. The first snow was dry and fluffy. The second was mainly sleet. The last couple were dry and fluffy. Shoveling was a workout. My neighbor plowed my drive for the first snow, much appreciated.

The birds and the deer had a rough time. The birds were searching for food in the bare spots they could find and in the tall weeds from the summer. The deer were eating branches and digging in the snow for grass. We had a group of deer camp out in the wildflower area. We woke up one morning and had about ten does snow covered.

We have received our seeds for the garden. Tomatoes and peppers will be started next week. Spring is coming.

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### **Clinton County MG 2021 Meeting Dates:**

**Meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.** All regular meetings begin at 6:30 pm. (Meetings currently postponed due to Covid-19)

**Minutes: Clinton County Master Gardeners Association. In Attendance: No new minutes to report. Meetings cancelled due to COVID-19**

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Hours Needed for Interns: 50 Hours total 1<sup>st</sup> year  
Hours needed for established MGV: 20 Volunteer Hours per year  
Continuing Education Hours: 10 Continuing Education Hours per year

## Nearly 80,000 pounds of produce grown for food pantries statewide

By Tracy Turner

*Master Gardener Volunteers from across Ohio grew nearly 80,000 pounds of produce in 2020 statewide and donated it all to 101 food pantries in cities and towns across the state. Photo: OSU Extension.*



COLUMBUS, Ohio—Master Gardener Volunteers from across Ohio grew nearly 80,000 pounds of produce in 2020 statewide and donated it all to 101 food pantries in cities and towns across the state.

The Master Gardener Volunteer program is a U.S.- and Canada-wide effort that in Ohio is

run by Ohio State University Extension, which is the outreach arm of The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

The produce grown included fruits, vegetables, and herbs and was equivalent to 65,200 meals, according to Pam Bennett, state master gardener volunteer program director and horticulture educator with OSU Extension.

Although Master Gardener Volunteers have grown and donated food through this program for 20 years, growers ramped up their production efforts to help deal with the growing issue of food insecurity issues faced by individuals and families in 2020 statewide, said Mike Hogan, an OSU Extension educator who facilitates the program in Franklin County.

That's significant, considering the rising unemployment and other financial hardships people have faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused food banks to have increased demand for food but receive fewer food donations from grocery stores, according to research from Zoë Plakias, a CFAES assistant professor of agricultural, environmental, and development economics.

Although grocery stores donate their excess products to food banks, if stores have difficulty keeping their shelves stocked, there can be less available for donation, she said.

In July, nearly 20% of households surveyed nationally said they had children in the home who were not eating enough sometime or often in the past week because they could not afford food. A separate national survey showed that 9.7% of those who responded said they couldn't afford to buy enough food in the past week.

Due to food insecurity issues, which were worsened by the pandemic, Franklin County Master Gardener Volunteers ramped up production of fresh fruits and vegetables in 29 garden projects throughout Franklin County, including at CFAES' Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory on Ohio State's Columbus campus, Hogan said.

“In Franklin County alone, Master Gardener Volunteers produced and donated 29,862 pounds of produce for food-insecure families,” he said. “This amounts to nearly 15 tons of food and was an 8,437-pound increase from food produced for donations in 2019.

“This food was donated to 23 food pantries in Franklin County and to individual families and youth in several neighborhoods.”

Ohio’s Master Gardener Volunteer program has more than 3,500 Master Gardener Volunteers in 62 counties statewide who take 50 hours of horticultural training through OSU Extension and in return agree to give 50 hours of service to their county Extension program. Volunteers can be recertified each year with an additional 10 hours of continuing education and a minimum of 20 hours of service, Bennett said.

Some of the service they provide includes staffing phone helplines, speaking at public events, taking photos, giving tours, propagating plants, maintaining gardens, and more, all depending on their interests.

The program has four primary initiatives:

- Backyard gardening and local foods includes working with community gardens.
- Integrated pest management includes teaching people best gardening practices and strategies to reduce the use of pesticides.
- Invasive species includes encouraging people to identify, report, and be on the lookout for spotted lanternfly, Asian long horned beetle, and other invasive species.
- Environmental horticulture focuses on stormwater management, how to create rain gardens, and best management practices for backyard gardening.

The produce production for the food donations in 2020 started in March with the early spring crops, while other crops were planted in May after Master Gardener Volunteers received an exemption for this work since it occurred during the statewide stay-at-home orders, Bennett said.

“We were granted exemptions because food security fell under the governor’s guidelines as essential work,” she said. “A few counties still had gardening plots in late December, with cool-season crops such as carrots, lettuce, and other greens.

“All produce grown was given to local food banks and soup kitchens in the county it was produced in immediately after it was harvested,” Bennett said. “Additionally, some of the produce was given directly to families and youth who live in neighborhoods around the community gardens.”

The food donation program began during the 2008 recession, Hogan said.

“As a result of the strained economy during that time and the growth of the local food movement, the need for donations grew,” he said. “The need significantly increased this year due to the pandemic.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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## Planning a Butterfly Garden as the Snow Falls By Faye Mahaffey

One of my favorite things to watch fluttering in the summer breeze are butterflies. I keep my identification books handy, just in case I don't recognize one of the many visitors to my flower gardens. I want to add some sort of bench to my butterfly garden this year so that I can relax as I enjoy watching the various nectar-sippers dining in the heat of the day. What do butterflies want? The survival of their species depends on attaining the warmth of the sun, food to eat, shelter from the elements, and a safe place to raise their kids. Butterflies need protection from the wind. You can



accommodate them by enclosing part of the garden with walls or hedges or sheltering it with plantings of evergreen or deciduous trees and shrubs. Butterflies feed on nectar. But before these insects become the fluttery nectar-sippers that visit our gardens, they exist as eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalises. Don't stop at adding nectar plants to beds and borders. It's also important to include host or larval food plants, which beckon to egg-laying females and the males that court them. Once the eggs hatch into caterpillars, they eat the host plants on which they were laid. Keep in mind that insecticides designed to kill ravenous caterpillars also destroy the butterflies you want to attract. An example would be the Green-and-black-striped parsley worms, which eat parsley, carrots, and dill, but hatch into glorious swallowtail butterflies!

Sacrifice a few plants for caterpillar consumption in your garden. You won't regret the outcome! Most gardeners create their butterfly gardens by selecting flowers, but many trees and shrubs also make outstanding butterfly plants. Many common shade trees are important plants for butterflies and their larvae, including aspens and poplars, willows, buckeyes, serviceberries, birches, apples and crab apples, cherries and plums, and oaks.

There is a very informative Fact Sheet from the University of Kentucky Extension (ENTFACT-006) that lists many of the plant species that attract butterflies including: Asters, Bee Balm, Wild Bergamot, Black-eyed Susan, Blazing star, Butterfly weed, Cardinal flower, Columbine, Goldenrod, Ironweed, Joe-Pye weed, Sunflowers, Phlox, Spicebush, Violets, Virginia bluebell and Yarrow.

Only a small amount of space is needed to provide butterfly habitat. Here's a check list that includes:

- Before you start, plan ahead.
- Map your yard and determine what environmental conditions you have, such as soil type and amount of sun.
- Locate gardens near areas that are sheltered from wind.
- Select areas that receive at least six hours of direct sunlight each day.
- Plant flowers in large diverse groups.

- Choose plants that vary in color, season of bloom, and height to provide different foraging opportunities and maximum year-round habitat for butterflies.
- Choose flowers with different structures. Butterflies have different length proboscises (tongues) that determine which flowers they can feed from.
- Provide cover and shelter such as broad-leaved trees, shrubs, and log piles.
- Provide several landing pads or sunbathing perches in open and sunny areas throughout the garden. Butterflies rely to a large degree on thermal heating and sunbathe in these open spots.
- Provide a water source or puddle for butterflies. Bury a bucket or shallow lid in the ground and fill it with equal ratios of sand and soil, then periodically saturate the sand/soil mixture with water.
- Provide access to the water puddle by placing a few large rocks around the bucket or lid. Another great place to check online is the Xerces Society, [ohioline.osu.edu](http://ohioline.osu.edu), the National Wildlife Federation, and Monarch Watch.

What are the benefits from planting a Butterfly Garden? Not only will you attract beautiful butterflies, but your yard also will be filled with colorful flowers throughout spring, summer and fall. I can't think of anything better to do on a cold, snowy day than plan a garden that will bring more butterfly visitors! Get your graph paper and garden journal out and sharpen that pencil!

Submitted by Faye Mahaffey  
OSUE Brown County Master Gardener Volunteer

## Create your own Monarch Waystation!



### Plants in the Garden

- |                                                             |                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A</b> - Swamp Milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>        | <b>G</b> - Wild Bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>                               |
| <b>B</b> - Butterfly Weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>         | <b>H</b> - Showy Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> var. <i>speciosa</i> |
| <b>C</b> - Wild Blue Indigo <i>Baptisia australis</i>       | <b>I</b> - Prairie Dropseed <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>                       |
| <b>D</b> - Pale Purple Coneflower <i>Echinacea pallida</i>  | <b>J</b> - Little Bluestem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>                       |
| <b>E</b> - Joe Pye Weed <i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>         | <b>K</b> - Mountain Mint <i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>                        |
| <b>F</b> - Prairie Blazing Star <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i> | <b>L</b> - Rattlesnake Master <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>                       |

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# LUNCH & LEARN AND HAPPY HOUR WEBINAR SERIES

## FOR MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS:

### FALL/WINTER 2020-2021

*Each video will count for 1 hour of continuing education. You will be responsible for entering in your own hours.*

*Speakers and times are subject to change.*

<https://mastergardener.osu.edu/lnlhh>

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## Jim Chatfield is Retiring

We will Be Celebrating His Career and Wishing Him Well on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at a Virtual Slow and Kind Retirement Roast

You are invited to a Zoom meeting. When: Feb. 24, 2021 06:00 PM Eastern Time . After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

[Register in advance for this meeting!](#)

has been created for you to post photos, well wishes, and tributes for Jim to enjoy.

[Jim Chatfield's Kudoboard | Kudoboard](#)

# What projects would you like to see happen in 2021?

## Email Judy or Tony your suggestions

### **Clinton County 2021 MG Projects:**

#### **Annual Plant Sale + Educational Classes**

- ✓ Fund Raiser
- ✓ Set up + sale of vegetable and flowers to the public
- ✓ Present one-hour educational programs for the public

#### **Pollinator Acre**

- ✓ New 2020 project – headed by Jeff Drapalik
- ✓ Acreage tilled, planted and maintained

#### **Community Pollinator Educational Program**

- ✓ Pollinator week: June 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> (Cancelled this year)
- ✓ Usually children oriented
- ✓ Educational to raise awareness of need of pollinators



#### **Backyard Food Demo Garden** @ Denver Park, by walk path. Contact: Debbie or Judy

- ✓ Permanent food demo site at park
- ✓ Show what perennial food can be grown in home backyards
- ✓ Set up educational programming

#### **WIC garden** at extension office. Contact Jeff

- ✓ Work with the WIC office program
- ✓ Education of growing food for families

#### **Master Gardener booth** Contact Judy

- ✓ Once or twice a month table at the Farmers Market, to meet public/answer questions.
- ✓ Project to make public aware of MG

#### **Chad Mason's Youth Summer Program and Gardens:**

- ✓ Chad Mason's Juvenile Youth Program
- ✓ Cover 6 weeks of 1-hour programs on food and gardening

#### **Habitat for Humanity:** Contact Judy or Nicole

- ✓ Project we have supported for 11 plus years with Habitat
- ✓ Design Front Landscapes, purchase plants and set workday to install them.
- ✓ Present educational on home care of landscape

#### **Planting two urns** @ Denver Park entrance. Contact: Judy

- ✓ Seasonal 4 times year
- ✓ We purchased and donated the urns, keep them planted, seasonal

#### **Elementary School Sensory Garden** Contact: Beverly

#### **Work in office:** as asked by Tony/ and hotline questions from public.