

'THE COMMPOST' NEWSLETTER

CLINTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS



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

May + June 2020

Ohio State University Extension - Clinton County

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OSU Extension Educator
Agriculture/Natural Resources
www.clinton.osu.edu

Next *COMMPOST*

Deadline: June 12, 2020

Please submit items in MS Word
Format to Nicole Alexander at:
nicolejanealexander@gmail.com

MARK YOU CALENDAR:

April 16, 2020 Thursday:

Face to Face Meeting Cancelled

May 21, 2020 Thursday:

Face to Face Meeting Cancelled

June 18, 2020 Thursday:

Face to Face Meeting Cancelled

July 16, 2020 Thursday:

Meeting 6:30 pm

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.



Words from Tony Nye, OSU Extension Educator

Greeting Master Gardeners:

I hope you are all staying safe and healthy. It is certainly a challenging time for all of us and those of you like me that need to be extra careful because of other health concerns it is very important to be safe and distance from others as much as possible.

Working from home has had its ups and downs like internet connection and things like that but I am staying busy with many zoom meetings, programs, emails, and phone calls. As Ohio State University continues to limit our operations at the county level we will need to be aware you are an OSU volunteer and all of my limitations to operate are also your limitation to operate such as monthly face-to-face meetings, our projects and of course our plant sale. I have been in communications with Patch Work Gardens about our sale and I am waiting to hear from them in regard to our obligation to them with any plants they may have started for our plant sale and what our options are. Stay tune as we will try to update everyone as soon as I hear form Stacy at Patchwork.

In other news, I know Judy has shared with you the master gardener lunch and learn series. If you go to the Master Gardener you can see what is coming up and get registered as well, you can go back and listen to past programs. The link will get you to this info. <https://mastergardener.osu.edu/news>

Another avenue for great learning opportunities is by going to our OSU Agmadness sessions. Some of the weekly sessions have emphasis on horticulture topics such as fruit for the backyard etc. You can find current and recorded session of these by going to the link <https://agmr.osu.edu> and look for the info on the Ag Madness sessions.

Please feel free to reach out to me, Jeff, Judy or Nicole if you need anything from us. In the meantime, stay safe and we will hopefully soon be able to see each other face to face and get back to some since of normal.

Take care,
Tony

Stay connected!

I have been trying to forward any interesting information from State MGV and local county programs. There have been many changes going to webinars and zoom, to present these programs. I hope you can join in on them. I am also, trying to stay connected with our Clinton County members, You! I 'talk' with the 'Cape May Gals', and email to the whole group. Please take time to share what is going on with yourself, share pictures, what projects have you started. Email what is going on in your neck of the woods.



Here's a picture that Mary Harris shared of a Redbud tree's blooms.

This is the latest from State MGV Coordinator Pam Bennett:

Dear MGV County Coordinators,

Good evening. I hope you are all holding up, staying home, and staying healthy. I would like to touch base with you on the topic of **MGVs and spring plant sales**, as this is on all of our minds this time of the year. I have been getting many questions about if and how we can carry out some of the great ideas that MGVs are coming up with for these plant sales. First of all, hooray for the MGVs for thinking outside of the box and for brainstorming. They are passionate about the MGV program and about raising money for local county projects. However, as you know, and we need to impress upon the MGVs again (I know you all have been in contact and have been communicating with them on a regular basis) – **we are not permitted to engage in any activities, projects, programs, events, meetings, etc. that would require face-to-face contact. This includes our traditional plant sales planned for this spring. This also includes online plant sales that would require MGVs to gather and package or organize an order for someone to drive through and pick it up, similar to what our garden centers are doing. This is not permitted at this time.**

Despite these restrictions, I urge you to be creative and think of alternative ways you might accomplish something similar to a plant sale. For instance, how about connecting with a local garden center and partnering on a program in which your MGVs encourage people to shop at the garden center on a special day (MGV day); and the garden center helps MGVs out by giving back a portion of the sales? Or, if your MGVs grew plants for a local sale, and now have them at their homes, how about organizing a neighborhood giveaway or plant swap in which they place their plants on a table in the driveway and allow people to come and pick what they want? This might even garner some press – we are doing something for the community. I am sure there are other ideas out there that might work. Look at how birthday parties are happening with drive-by parades; and look at how people are visiting loved ones in nursing homes, sitting outside the window while talking on the phone. I can only imagine that our MGVs are just as creative!

Again, we can get creative as long as we abide by the university policies. **For now, there is no programming or project activity for OSU Extension until July 6, 2020.** I am in constant communication with Administration, advocating for our MGVs and our activities. If you come up with an idea, run it by me and we will see if it is permitted, or considered. In addition, if you come up with ideas that are allowable and doable, without risking the health and safety of our MGVs, we will be sure to let other MGV coordinators know.

The health of our MGVs – and the communities we serve – is of first and foremost importance. As you all are aware, the majority of our volunteers fit into the high-risk category, and we don't want them exposed to COVID-19. Also know that I am struggling with this as much as you may be. Clark County MGVs have a major project in Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum, and we are concerned about the care and maintenance or lack thereof. While I am deeply concerned about it, I am more concerned with keeping our MGVs safe. Because we aren't having a plant sale this year, we stand to lose approximately \$10,000 income. On the other hand, we don't have the expenses associated with the plant sale and we might not get to do all of the projects that we had planned this year. It's very disappointing, but I am hopeful that we will be back strong next season. And of course, you never know, things could change course soon, and we may be back in the garden again.

Know this: I will continue to advocate for the MGVs and the MGV program in Ohio. We are truly blessed with incredible people who care about our community. This only makes the situation more difficult for people. Thank them continually for their commitment and flexibility as we move through this crisis and come out on the other side healthy and ready to work.

Thanks as always for your commitment to the OSUE MGV program.

Pamela Bennett
MGV Program Director



From Beverly Drapalik:

Enthusiastic Gardeners,

As you know, Jeff and I are part of the Wilmington Farmers Market. Each year we make an order (with other growers) with Fedco Seeds. Last month we picked up our seeds from Guy Ashmore's farm stand ... in the snow! We were on our way to the Market meeting that Sally Buchanan organized for the new market year. As I opened the seed package, to determine which seeds are on backorder or "sold out," I found a note from Fedco. Their words are totally encouraging and present a really idealistic view of their business and hopes of a great growing season!

So, I am sharing their words with you:

"Dear Seed Lover, thank you for purchasing Fedco Seeds. Before you is your box full of so much hope and optimism, such potential sealed within each little white packet. May your gardens thrive. January in Maine is a time of frozen lakes and snowy fields, the days lengthen, and slowly our thoughts turn to spring, but many of us are still too busy with hauling firewood and clearing driveways to let too many garden thoughts sprout. Nonetheless, our seed warehouse is hustling. The seed room has been packing seed since early November. The big seed crew has been scooping peas, beans and corn for months. They pack pallets of seed, one cup at a time, literally moving mountains. The order fillers push their carts around the warehouse and seed pulling line, picking from over 1000 items in up to seven sizes. And in the kitchen, the popcorn machine pops a steady supply of organic popcorn filling the warehouse with delicious smells and the staff with healthy snacks."

So, Gardeners, our tasks may not be huge, and no one may be supplying us with delicious popcorn for our snacks. I think, however, that our hopes and dreams for a good growing season are just as big as Fedco's.

We may not have Farmers Markets for a while. We may not see our relatives and friends, other than FaceTime! As we stay indoors during this pandemic, and as we start to work the ground at home, may we enjoy a new connection to our own spaces. Gardeners always have "something to do." Later, we can work community spaces and renew connections with our communities.
Beverly Drapalik



Earth Day was April 22nd this month and it was the 50th anniversary this year. Have you been a part of this since 1970 or is it your first time to participate? We sometimes do not look at the things we use and do as making a difference. Try to reduce your use of plastic small and large toiletries bottles, use silicone tube containers, change to bar soap. Change plastic water bottles to carry/with metal/glass bottles. Ditch plastic ware and use flatware. Put leftovers in glass containers, use reusable straw. Plant a tree or twenty. (I have a friend who has planted a goal of one hundred trees) Be part of a project: like Clean Water; loss of birds, bees, insects, and wildlife; recycling plastics, glass, clothes. Be a part, share your passion.

**Minutes: Clinton County Master Gardeners Association. February 27, 2020
from 6:30 pm – 7:30pm**

In Attendance: Judy Grosvenor, Jeff Drapalik, Beverly Drapalik, Nicole Alexander, Melissa Gaughan and Jim Hackney

President Report (Jeff Drapalik):

- We received our license for the plant sale. Email was sent out with the full list of plants
- Any leftover plants can be donated to local organizations that need them
- Please do your yearly recertification
- Tracy's presentation will be next month
- Mike Lovelace from the ODOT said they would help bushhog an area if we wanted to do a pollinator area. Jeff suggested that we do a field trip to stake out a good area to seed by the highway. Mr. Lovelace can help, provide safety jackets and signs.
- Will talk with Kyle @ the Nike Center to see what they want in regards to the roadside sign. A 4x4 sign, any color with any picture on it is \$200 for one side, \$368 for both sides from Graphics to Go

Coordinator Report (Judy Grosvenor):

- Passed out the Make a Difference for Ohio. We collected 50,721 lbs. of food last year.
- The Farm Review is on September 22-24, 2020 this year.
- The State MGV Conference is September 11+12 in Cuyahoga County
- Asked if we are doing Grow Ohio this year. Their goal is 55,000 lb

Treasurer's Report (Beverly Drapalik):

- Chef Jamie will definitely do the 2 herb classes at the plant sale. 10am + 11am classes
She will coordinate what she cooks with the herbs that we have at the sale
- Asked for the \$10 for dues. Not all MGV paid. Will ask for rest of dues next month
- Suggested using Chad Mason's kids for weeding or maintenance work for CCYC, WIC garden and the food demo garden
- Discussed that Ann, Jeff and Beverly could do a "Bee" talk at the library for Pollinators week.
Can bring in a beehive, honey and a bee suit

Meeting adjourn, next meeting March 19, 2020. Respectfully submitted: Nicole Alexander.
(Updated: March and April meeting cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak)

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:

**MGVs Horticulture Lunch and Learn and Happy Hour Information and
Registration**

Below is the link for the Lunch and Learn webinars: **(Various Dates, Online)**

<https://mastergardener.osu.edu/news/mgvs-horticulture-lunch-and-learn-and-happy-hour-information-and-registration>

These webinars are great opportunities to pick up educational information and hours. (We don't know when we will be able to meet together.) They are scheduled on Tuesday at noon, Wednesday at 4 pm and Thursday at noon. You **must register** to get the email notice for each zoom link and listen in. Or if you missed one, you can go back and listen to it. Go to above website and **click** on the title: MGV Horticulture Lunch and Learn and Happy Hour, etc. This will get you to the page listing programs and to register. Also, at the bottom of page, see list of passed programs to view.

Make sure you are not missing a great idea and build up your hours. Call me if you have questions.
Judy

Clinton County 2020 MG Projects:

While we are restricted from engaging in our projects, keep them in mind and we will get back to gardening.

We have a list of current Master Gardener Projects that we participate in every year. Some of the projects we carry from year to year. Some are one and done, as in being a speaker for a group or presenting an community educational program. In establishing projects, we view:

Goals - what are we hoping to accomplish.

Objective - precise outcomes that can be measured to support the goals

(Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound)

Description - establish need and benefits, being realistic, clearly identify the focus and evaluation.

We plan our projects to educate, benefit and enhance the community. Please view the list of projects and choose several that interest you or will help you grow as a Master Gardener. We welcome new ideas. Many hands and good companionship will accomplish much.

Annual Plant Sale + Educational Classes

- ✓ Fund Raiser
- ✓ 2nd Saturday of May each year 5-9-2020
- ✓ 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 14th – 19th
- ✓ 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.



Clinton County MG 2020 Meeting Dates:

Starting in March 2020 we will begin meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month. All regular meetings begin at 6:30 pm.

March, April, May and June meetings, 2020 (All Cancelled due to COVID-19)
July 20, 2020 Thursday 6:30 pm

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

Interesting State MG websites:

The Farm Science Review Sept 22-24, 2020

fsr.osu.edu/home

<https://www.facebook.com/FarmScienceReview/>

The Ohio Invasive Plants Council (OIPC)

www.oipc.info

Ohio State MGV website:

mastergardener.osu.edu/home

Ohio MG Volunteer system sign in:

<https://ohio.volunteersystem.org>

OSUE's 'Buckeye Yard and Garden on Line

<http://bygl.osu.edu/> and <http://vegnet.osu.edu>

Join us at 

<https://www.facebook.com/clintoncountymastergardeners>

Fayette Co. MGV 2020 Sponsor a Pot Program

<https://mastergardener.osu.edu/news/fayette%E2%80%99s-mgv-sponsor-pot-program-grew-2019>

To learn more about pollinators and pollinator plants, consult these resources:

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation: **xerces.org**

The Ohio State University Bee Lab: **beelab.osu.edu**