'THE COMMPOST' NEWSLETTER

CLINTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

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

Nov + Dec 2019

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Next *COMMPOST* Deadline: December 12

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

MARK YOU CALENDAR:

Nov. ?, 2019 Thursday:
MG Meeting, Ext. Office 6:30pm

Dec. ?, 2019 Thursday:
Holiday Dinner + Gift exchange
Time + Date TBD

Jan. 23, 2020 Thursday:
MG Meeting, Ext. Office 6:30pm

Winter Morning Poem

Winter is the king of showmen,
Turning tree stumps into snow men,
And houses into birthday cakes,
And spreading sugar over lakes.

Smooth and clean and frosty white,
The world looks good enough to bite.
That's the season to be young
Catching snowflakes on your tongue.

Snow is snowy when it's snowing
I'm sorry it's slushy when it's going.

Poet: Ogden Nash

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE...

Letter from the President: Jeff Drapalik

Fall is here. The garden has produced the last tomato, bean, and zucchini. Flowers have gone to seed. The birds are flying south. Hopefully you were able to enjoy your garden this year.
The leaves are turning yellow, orange, and red. The trees are showing their vibrant colors as they prepare for winter.
The master gardeners in conjunction with the Clinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD), the Clinton County Extension Office, and Clinton County Soil and Water planted a wildflower area at the corner of Osborn road and highway 730. CCBDD generously donated the area. The wildflower area was planted in spring. The weather did not cooperate. The seeds did not germinate. Gardeners are an optimistic group. The area was successfully replanted in August with sunflowers and oats. Sunflowers are growing and presenting their yellow flowers.
Drive by Osborn and 730. Take in the last vestige of summer.

Jeff Drapalik

Words from Tony Nye

Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, County Chair

Hello Master Gardeners

It is time to start thinking about next year and all your garden ideas. Many garden seed catalogs will be coming in the mail soon.
As I think about that, we will need a few of us to sit down with the folks at “Patchwork Gardens” in Washington Court House, to discuss what plants we would like to have for our annual plant sale next May. Please be sure to get me ideas so that we have ample plant ideas to discuss with Patchwork.

I am also challenging you for community education ideas that can be hosted this winter/early spring. This is something we as a group can teach or possibly bring someone in to speak to the community.
Ideas are also needed if we want to have workshops available during the plant sale. It is never too early to begin planning for success.

Get ready for winter – it will be here before we know it and as always be safe and HAPPY GARDENING!!

Tony Nye

Minutes: ***Clinton County Master Gardeners Association. August 29, 2019 from 6:30 pm – 7:35pm***

In Attendance: Judy Grosvenor, Tony Nye, Connie Hardie, Debbie Tong, Jeff Drapalik, Beverly Drapalik, Lynn Musser, Nicole Alexander, Ann Kuehn, Scilla Wahrhaftig and Sara McKenzie.

Tony Nye Report:

- #1 call to Tony is on trees and he thinks if we have a bad winter this year that some of these trees won't get through because of bad root structure and other problems (bag worms). There have been three confirmed diseased Hydrangea's purchased from Rural King.
- Two people have died, and several have been hurt taking down trees this year. Please call a professional tree service to take down your trees.
  Water your trees even in dormancy, this will help with the root system. Use tree spikes, either a 12-12-12 or 15-15-15.

President's Report:

- Please put your hours in. Had meeting at Clinton-Masse. They have asked for plants for their garden. Sarah submitted a list for plants
- Nike Center: Will replant the plot in the spring. We will wait to purchase the sign next year.
- This summer we met each Friday with Chad Mason and his group of kids. Each week was a different set of kids between 9 years old and late teens. Overall the kids gained exposure planting vegetables and herbs and they tried different varieties of Basil, Mint and Asparagus.
- Summer picnic will be Sunday, September 8, 2019 at 3:30 pm. Eat at 4:30pm. BYO utensils, drinks and one covered dish. Master Gardener will supply the meat. Looking forward to everyone attending.

Coordinator Report (Judy):

- Passed out the Sept – Oct Commpost Newsletter.
- A one-hour Pollinator talk, "Flying Fighters to the Rescue" will be at the Wilmington Library on September 11 @ 4:30pm. Judy will present and needs assistance.
- There will be a Habitat class on Thurs. Sept. 5th at 6:30 at the Wilmington Presbyterian Church.
- Met with Holms elementary school. Marlene Taylor is the new principal. They have beds in front of the school and initially she wanted to grow some vegetables in it. Seems she is too busy to deal with it this year but is interested in continuing the thought next spring.
- One Day MG State Conference @ OSU 4-H Building this fall, November 8, 2019. The International Conference will be in Pennsylvania this year.
- The Demo Garden needs weeded + mulched. Will take about 1 hour of work, need volunteers.
- The Farm Science review is September 17-19th at Molly Caren Ag Center, 135 OH-38, London, OH 43140 and Corn Festival is September 6-8.

Treasurer's Report (Beverly):

- Only one expenditure of $24 was for herbs for Chad Mason's group this spring.

Connie Hardie: Submitted plant list and sketches to Pam @ the library for the historical marker. Waiting to hear back.

Lynn Musser: Said to listen to the podcast Joe Gardner about Fungi. It is very interesting. The link is: https://joegardener.com/podcast/power-of-mushrooms/

Scilla Wahrhaftig: Said that the Wilmington beds were doing great and she picked two tomatoes that weighed 1.5 lbs. each. The CCYC beds are doing marvelous, with have melons, tomatoes, hot peppers and cucumbers. They will plant lettuce next week. Up to 4-5 kids help each week with the beds.

Meeting adjourn, next meeting September 26, 2019. Respectfully submitted: Nicole Alexander.

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Minutes: *Clinton County Master Gardeners Association. September 26, 2019 from 6:30 pm – 7:15pm*

In Attendance: Judy Grosvenor, Connie Hardie, Jeff Drapalik, Beverly Drapalik, Nicole Alexander and Sara McKenzie

Tony Nye Report:
n/a
President's Report:

- Suggested Denver General for Christmas Dinner this year.
- Nominating Nicole Alexander for Secretary. Will take vote at next meeting.

Coordinator Report (Judy):

- Pre-meeting: met with Nicole Alexander at 5:30 re: Habitat House planning
- Said that Tony wants to meet with Patchwork about ordering plants for next year.
- MGV Conference @ 4H Building on November 8 is about $100 for one day. This includes breakfast and lunch. Discussed whether our fund could pay for half of the cost.
- Thanked Sara and her husband Darin and kids for the mulching at the Demo Food Garden
- Last meeting at the library with the kids went great, had a good turnout
- Teaching moment: New science has learned that trees drink up water at night, not during the day.
- Please turn in your MGV hours

Treasurer's Report (Beverly):

- Reviewed the deposits. Bank to send us reimbursement for paper statements

Connie Hardie:

- Discussed that maybe the Friends of the library may provide funds for the planting around the Library Historical Marker. No new update about it.

Meeting adjourn, next meeting October 24, 2019. Respectfully submitted: Nicole Alexander.

Pictures from the WIC Garden:

We have worked with the WIC and they had a good vegetable garden in back of the Extension office. So great to see new mothers and children growing and picking veggies.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Christmas Cactus

In nature, what we often call holiday cacti are actually tropical epiphytes originally from the mountainous regions of Brazil. Though often called Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter cactus, these common names are only a general reference for the time of year these plants may bloom.

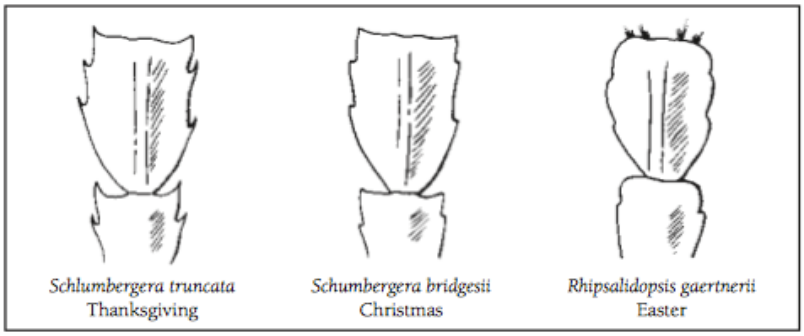
The *THANKSGIVING* cactus typically starts blooming in late fall and Christmas cacti around a month later. Thanksgiving cacti are often sold as “Christmas cacti” and they do look very similar. Both fall under the genus Schlumbergera, have the same color scheme and require the same care. An Easter cactus starts producing flower buds in February.
Thanksgiving cactus (Schlumbergera truncata) has very pointed and claw-shaped projections on the edges of the leaf. Think of it as coming to Thanksgiving with its own fork!

Also sometimes called a *CHRISTMAS* cactus, the hybrid Schlumbergera x buckleyi has leaf projections that are more scalloped or teardrop-shaped. The specific epithet honors William Buckley who created the hybrid at the Rollisson Nurseries in England around 1850 by crossing two southeastern Brazilian species (S. truncate and S. russelliana).

The CHRISTMAS CACTUS (Schlumbergera bridgesii) has flat leaves with rounded smooth teeth and anthers that are purplish-brown.

The EASTER CACTUS (Rhipsalidopsis gaertnerrii syn. Hatiora gaertneri) has very rounded edges, centralized on the leaf.

WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHRISTMAS CACTUS TO BLOOM?
The Oregon State University Extension Service recommends October is the time to start reducing water, placing it in a cool area (50-55 degrees Fahrenheit) and increasing its time in shade or darkness (12-14 hours) to force it to bloom in late December.



SOURCES:
NC State Coop Extension, Lee County Center, 'Christmas Cactus': http://bit.ly/2OB2Ix1
ISU Linn County, 'Is it a Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter Cactus?' http://bit.ly/2AY8HDR
CSU Plant Talk, 'Holiday Cacti': http://bit.ly/2ouIZnV
PennState Extension, 'Christmas Cactus – Getting Them to Bloom': http://bit.ly/2OD8G0e
Extension Master GardenerSM Volunteers of Buncombe Co., NC, 'Your Christmas Cactus May Not Be a Christmas Cactus': http://bit.ly/2MtlXWC
Missouri Botanical Garden, Schlumbergera × buckleyi http://bit.ly/2pbJN1a
Coos County Master Gardeners

2019 Habitat For Humanity project:

What a great weekend! We have completed the Habitat home front landscape this pass Saturday. Thanks to the homeowner, Kathy, who had family and friends and our own MG's Nicole, Lynn, and Missy who worked so hard. Also, thank you to Natorp, who gave us a wonderful discount. We purchased some wonderful plants.

I have to say again, The Habitat committee of Nicole, Missy and Lynn were outstanding, and we truly appreciate their work.

Thank you to all, Judy.

Here's what we did!

Clinton County 2019 MG Projects:

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.

*Pollinator Acre at Nike Center Area. Contact: Jeff
* Elementary School Sensory Garden. Contact: Beverly
*Community Pollinator Educational program.
*WIC garden at extension office. Contact Jeff
*Area Community Garden. Youth garden at Wilmington College with Eric. Contact: Jeff.
*Backyard Food Demo Garden @ Denver Park, by walk path. Contact: Debbie or Judy.
*Planting two urns @ Denver Park entrance. Seasonal 4 times year. Contact: Judy.
*Habitat for Humanity: Work with H/H and new homeowners, Design Front Landscapes & install them. **We need a leader** on this, but all volunteers to work. Contact: Judy or Nicole.
*Work in office: as asked by Tony/ and hotline questions from public.
*Master Gardener booth, once or twice a month table at the Farmers Market, to meet public/answer questions. Contact: Judy.

Clinton County MG 2019/2020 Meeting Dates:

The Association meets on the fourth Thursday of each month unless otherwise noted. All regular meetings begin at 6:30 pm.

October 24	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
November	TBD
December	TBD
January 23, 2020	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm

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

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Interesting State MG websites:

The Farm Science Review	fsr.osu.edu/home 111 South Nels 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

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**

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