

'THE COMMPOST' NEWSLETTER

CLINTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Jan.– Feb., 2016

Ohio State University Extension -

Clinton County

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Next *COMMPOST*

Deadline: March 25

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

1-28-2016: MG meeting/Ext.
Office - 6:30 pm.

2-25-2016: MG meeting/Ext.
Office - 6:30 pm.



**Groundhog
Day**



My Wife the Gardener

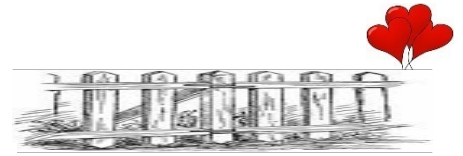
She dug the plot on Monday,
the soil was rich and fine,
She forgot to thaw out dinner
so we went out to dine...
She planted roses Tuesday, she says
they are a must,
They really are quite lovely, but she quite
forgot to dust.
On Wednesday it was daisies they opened up
with sun,
All whites and pinks and yellows, but the
laundry wasn't done...
The poppies came on Thursday, a bright
and cherry red,
I guess she really was engrossed, she never
made the bed...
It was violets on Friday, in colours she adores,
It never bothered her at all,
all crumbs upon the floors
I hired a maid on Saturday, my
week is now complete,
My wife can garden all she wants,
the house will still be neat!
It's nearly lunchtime Sunday
and I can't find the maid,
Oh no! I don't believe it!
She's out there **WITH THE SPADE!**

~ Peter (poem in old magazine)
From: no-dig-vegetablegarden.com



OVER THE GARDEN FENCE...

Missing - *Sunshine...*



We have closed out the old year 2015 and began the New Year, 2016. We have officially begun the winter season and the sun has disappeared. Of course, on Feb. 1st, *Phil* will have some sun and move out spring, a few more weeks.

I would like to thank everyone for their cheerful assistance, hard work and dedication to our MG organization, this pass year. We had several educational programs for the public, a successful plant sale, many workday planting improvements and new park planting destinations, as well as bulb plantings and participated in 'Make a Difference Day. There were improvements and additions to the bike path, a new park established in the downtown area, workshops and educational webinars, hotline and office coverage, assisted with another Habitat home, new tree dedications to missed friends and member celebrations. Our volunteer hours for the year were 724 hours, which is wonderful for our small group. I again cannot express my gratitude for your dedication and am sincerely assured you will continue though this new year.

As I step down from the club presidency, we can all look forward to new direction and guidance from our new President, Cindy Hale and Vice President Jeff Drapalik. We wish them the best and hope you will step up and ask how you can help this year.

Think sunshine,

Judy Grosvenor, CCMG Past President

Minutes: Clinton County Master Gardener Association November 19, 2015

In attendance: Judy Grosvenor- President, Beverly Drapalik- Treasurer, Dori Sabino-Vice President, Mary Helen Mack, Roxanne Luff, Mary Harris, Debbie Tong- Secretary, Jeff Drapalik, Cindy Halye, Raymond Koch, and Tony Nye.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 by President Judy Grosvenor.

Extension Report: Tony shared that he will be busy with Small Farm Colleges Jan 20th – 25th – 28th covering various topics. Our office computer is available to do webinars and update volunteer hours. He is dealing with a very full schedule and will be needing volunteers to help answer the phones regarding plant questions particularly tree questions.

Presidents Report: Judy shared that volunteer hours need to be in place by middle of December.

Secretary's report:

Respectfully submitted Debbie Tong

Treasurers report: Provided by Beverly Drapalik.

Election of Officers:

There was an election for 2016 officers with the following results: President: Cindy Halye, VP: Jeff Drapalik, Secretary: Debbie Tong, Assistant Secretary: Dori Sabino, Treasurer: Beverly Drapalik. Mary Helen made a motion to accept the new officers and was seconded by Ray Koch. Motion was approved.

Old business: Dori and Debbie planted front yard of Clarksville Habitat home. We are hoping to finish the back yard in Spring. There is still several projects to do even though the yard is small. *The

Wilmington library educational program was lightly attended but well received. Dori and Judy led the class. Pam Ada would like us to present a Spring class. * We still need to create design for front of Denver Park where large tree was removed. *Dori placed the signs for the Food demo garden and the Dog park. We have also been planting the 200 Spring bulbs. The Make a Difference Day in October was successful, our group worked at the new Xidas Park. * Rozanne is still working on a pollinator garden at Cowan Lake and she is hoping for 10 non-invasive natives. Mary Helen and Dori said they could provide plants.

New business: Our May 14th plant sale must be placed on the Nursery license list in December 2015, Judy will take care of this. We discussed creating herb 6 packs with assorted herbs that go well together at the plant sale. We would also like to see some smaller packs such as 2 or 3 tomatoes etc. Several customers requested this. * We discussed the possibility of each member taking a month and designing an educational program for our meeting based on their individual interests. Debbie volunteered for May. * Ray mentioned that Jim Chatfield will conduct a walk-thru at the Hazard arboretum. *Denise Elsworth is putting together an advanced pollinator class, it will be a series of 8-10 classes for 150.00 to sign up. * We discussed ways to expand into social media and generate more interest in Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners have several venues to consider such as Ask a Master Gardener and even being a Governors Advocate.

Reminder: Christmas party at the Spillway Lodge at 6:00 pm. (It was well attended, even Santa made an appearance)

The meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Deborah Tong, secretary. Happy New Year everyone.



FROM TONY

Greetings Master Gardeners and Happy New Year,

As we start a new year I hope each of you can find the gardening spirit and to help us have another successful and fruitful year.

A huge shout out to Roxanne for her efforts in developing and managing a/our Brand New Face Book page.

I do not Facebook so Please do not expect me to become a Face Book user any time soon.

This is just another way to get volunteer hours with our group. I applaud Roxanne for thinking outside the "Box" on this one. I truly believe this will be a huge success and a means to spread the word about upcoming events, programs, projects etc...

As communicated earlier in an email about our Facebook page, once we get some training for everyone, we will allow others to post to the page. In the meantime Please communicate anything needing to be posted through Roxanne.

Again, Happy New Year

Tony



PLANT OF THE MONTH...

Amaryllis: A Tale of True Love and Horticultural Wonder

GREEK mythology brings us the story of Amaryllis, a love-struck maiden who longed for the handsome but cold-hearted Alteo. Desperate to win his love, she pierced her heart with a golden arrow and then visited his cottage daily, shedding drops of blood along the way. On the thirtieth day, beautiful scarlet flowers bloomed along the path. Alteo was enamored, Amaryllis' heart was healed, and our favorite holiday bloom got its name. That is, until it was reclassified in the 1800s under the genus *Hippeastrum*.



Whatever you call them (and we'll call them amaryllis here), these dramatic tropical blooms herald the holidays with a natural beauty that only a living plant can bring. Here are 12 things you might not know about amaryllis:



- *Amaryllis* means *to sparkle* in Greek.
- *Hippeastrum* is derived from the Greek words for horse and star.
- In nature, amaryllis bloom in spring or summer, but are commonly forced into early bloom for the holidays.
- The U.S. imports more than 10 million amaryllis bulbs every year, mainly from Holland and South Africa.
- Plant breeders have developed more than 600 named varieties!
- Amaryllis reproduces by growing "daughter" bulbs next to the "mother" bulbs.
- It takes three to five years for a daughter bulb to reach a marketable size.
- You can grow amaryllis from seed, but it can take up to six years for them to reach maturity and produce flowers.
- Amaryllis are tender perennials; most are hardy outdoors only in zones 9 to 11.
- Properly cared for, an amaryllis plant can live for 75 years! Amaryllis make dramatic and long-lasting cut flowers.

Few bulbs are easier to grow than amaryllis — and few bloom with greater exuberance and beauty. Just plant the bulb in good potting soil. A support stake is handy for keeping the blooms upright, but little else is required: water regularly and provide bright, indirect light. Blooms will appear four to six weeks after planting

If your amaryllis is not already potted, plant each amaryllis bulb in a heavy, 4-6" pot, they like to be a little pot bound and lightweight pots may tip over. Plant the bulb, pointed-end-up, in potting soil. Do not use soil from the garden because it will not drain properly. Pack the soil gently around the bulb so approximately one-third of the bulb remains above the soil line.

Place the pot in a sunny location and water sparingly until you see about 2" of new growth. From then on, water regularly. As the plant grows, turn the pot periodically to encourage the stalk to grow straight. Within five to eight weeks, you will have an exciting and dramatic floral display. To prolong the blooms, keep the pot out of direct sunlight.

For Bloom Next Year

Amaryllis can be encouraged to blossom again the following year. It takes a little planning, but is quite simple and very rewarding. After the flowers have faded, cut the flower stalk to within 1" of the top of the bulb. Continue to water and feed the plant regularly with a liquid houseplant fertilizer. Amaryllis will grow a number of leaves during the spring and summer to help the plant produce energy for the following year's bloom. In mid-August, begin withholding water and let the foliage die back naturally as the pot dries out completely. Store the dormant bulb in a cool, dark and dry place for a minimum of eight weeks. About five to eight weeks before you want the amaryllis to flower again, repot the bulb in fresh potting soil and resume watering — sparingly at first. Once you see new growth, increase watering. You can expect another floral display within five to eight weeks. By following these basic care guidelines, you will be able to encourage your amaryllis to flower year after year.

By Suzanne DeJohn, Gardeners.com

CLINTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER/Facebook

After consulting with Tony, Roxanne has been working on creating a new Clinton Co.MG Facebook site. We hope to be able to use this tool to reach more of the community and excite them about gardening, too. Please note that Tony must approve of the posting and Roxanne will post it. Here is her message:

I have been working on our master gardener page and while I haven't yet posted everything (thank you for the photos Beverly, will post them soon - promise). This is the link to it:
<https://www.facebook.com/clintoncountymastergardeners/>

If you are on Facebook if you want to add it and follow the page I would be very happy (more people see it the better right?!) If you have anything you think would be of interest to those looking at the page please send me the details. I am more than likely going to use your wording as much as I can.

Please note, it is a work in progress and Tony has asked that until a class is held on Facebook, I will be the only one posting. Tony just has to approve before it will appear. Thanks everyone :) Roxanne

Reminders for You

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

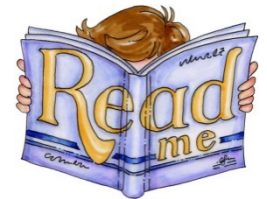
Thank you to everyone for assisting in documenting your 2015 volunteer hours into the VMS system.

<https://ohio.volunteersystem.org/users/clubhours.cfm?summary=yes> We totaled: 723.5 hours.

Now is the time for the next step on VMS for our start to 2016, it is to 'recertify'. There will three pages to confirm for each member. Please sign into your name and click on all three to complete your recertification. Any questions please call Judy.

SEE YOU at the LIBRARY

Are you working on a garden project or planning a new 'bed'? Just need some information? Or would like to have some good garden reading? Well if so, stop into the OSUE office and review the books in the Master Gardener library, it is in the room just behind the reception desk. I used two great books on fragrant plants and herbs for a presentation, this month. (note: office hours are Mon thru Thurs., 8 am to 4:30 pm. Closed to public on Friday.)



Dori reworked the set-up and cataloged all the books and added in the new books we received last year. The catalog titles are: [Specific Topics](#) – plant reviews, design, lighting, city gardens. [Themes](#): gardening by mail, aromatic gardens, and theme beds. [Perennials](#): design by color, set by sun or shade. [Weeds](#): identify them, invasive. [Mushrooms](#): poison, eatable plants and mushrooms. [Marketing](#). [Insects](#): caterpillars, identify, control. And [Grasses](#), [Vegetables](#), [Trees](#) and [Soil](#): identify and build. Lastly, [Herbs](#): identify, growth, cooking and drying. We have a wonderful resource and you should not miss it.

CLINTON COUNTY SOIL and WATER CONS. TREE SALE

The SWCD office is selling their 2016 tree seedling now and prices are reasonable. You must have your order and payment in their office by March 1st. They will let you know when to pick them up. –April-ist-. These are plants that are 1 to 4 year seedlings and average 8 to 18 inches tall. Having said that, it would be easy enough to pot them up in a good container and good soil and let them grow for several years. They have a new red maple and two new shrubs, silky dogwood and pink lady winterberry. Packets are: Wildlife, Songbird, Homeowner and Hardwood, as well as conifers. We could have pool together and order if needed. Check this out.

Bugs and Beetles...

BUG BYTES



OSU's Amy Stone forward an email regarding the latest EAB webinar in December.

I am pleased to announce that on **December 3 at 11 AM** Eastern Time EAB University will host a presentation by Don Cipollini of Wright State University of Dayton OH entitled **White Fringe Tree: EAB's New BFF?** . – Don and his students have been actively working with the EAB host plant resistance team for nearly a decade. Since discovering EAB on ***Chionanthus virginicus*** in Ohio in 2014 he and his students have been investigating the range of this phenomenon. Don will share his findings and what it could portend about the future of EAB.

http://www.emeraldashborer.info/eab_university.cfm#sthash.yCr0oFP6.dpbs

I attended this webinar and was pleasantly surprised (yes) by the information shared. At the same time of the EAB invasion in Ohio, Don Cipollini of Wright State University of Dayton OH and his students were also looking and testing the American White Fringe tree. Tests not only were being done by them but at the Morton Arboretum in Chicago, and Penn State and Michigan State are involved too. There have been at least 115 reported EAB attacks on this tree and also some on the native fringe tree, and I was surprise to learn this was happening at the same time as the ash tree attacks, some as early as 2011. Not all the species of this tree have been as seriously attacked. (not on lilacs). Yellow Springs, Springfield, Dayton, Wilmington, most of southwest Ohio have reported EAB attacks on the white fringe tree as well as the ash trees.

Some findings were that drought had a small role, the fringe tree has a gas/smell from the bark that is close to the ash tree gas/smell. Of course this has created a whole new list of questions, including are there other hosts or new hosts and they will be working on these in the new year. More Information at: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/eab.university.cfm#sthash.yCr0oFP6.dpbs>

Cliff Sadof, Professor, Department of Entomology, Purdue University-Smith Hall, 901 West State Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2089 csadof@purdue.edu;- <http://www.entm.purdue.edu/Entomology/research/cs/>



2016 WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, & SEMINARS:



Upcoming events:

Feb. 4, 2016: Tri-State Green Industry Conference at Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45246. The Tri-State Green Industry Conference is a collaborative effort between Ohio State University Extension, Purdue Extension, University of Kentucky Extension, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, and the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. It features a variety of high quality education and training for professionals and also features a vendor trade show. 8 Education Tracks: Annuals & Perennials, Tree & Shrub Care, Turf grass Management, Garden Center & Greenhouse Innovation, General Pest & Disease Management, Emerging Ideas & Issues. Info - ***Program Details and Registration now online at*** <http://go.osu.edu/BHDz>

Feb. 27, 2016 –Wildlife Symposium-Managing wildlife on the home front. In Springfield, Oh, at the Heritage Center. from 9 am – 3 p.m. in Springfield, OH. Cost \$35.00. Info at

https://apm.activecommunities.com/ntprd/Activity_Search/wildlife-symposium-nature-s-neighbors/120

Feb. 24, 2016 7 pm to 9 pm; Winter Hort Series: Landscape Design Basics at Warren Co. Armco Park Pavilion. Contacts: 513-695-1311 and email; mclaughlin.192@osu.edu (1st of 3 events)

March 2, 2016, 7 to 9 pm Winter Hort Series: 10 Things You Should Know about Vegetable Gardening At Warren Co. see info above. (2nd of 3 events.)

March 9, 2016, 7 to 9 pm 2016 Winter Hort Series: Wildflowers of Ohio at Warren Co. Armco Park. See above- same info. (3rd of 3 events)

April 2, 2016, 8 am to 3 pm. Southwestern Ohio Beekeeper School at Oasis conference center in Loveland, Oh. Warren Co. Contact: Greg Meyer, 513-695-1311, email: meyer.213@osu.edu

April 9 at 8 a.m. 21st Annual SW Ohio Perennial School at the Clermont County Fairground's 4-H Hall, 1000 Locust Street, Owensville. Visit <http://clermont.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/sw-ohio-perennial-school> to download a registration form. Registration is \$40 on or before March 31. Or Call 513-732-7070.

June 26 – 27, 2016 – Gardens Matter. Cuyahoga Co. garden tour at and near Zoar, Oh. For info- contact cuyahoga.osu.edu

If you have events you would like to add, please let editor know.

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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:

Ohio State MGV website: <http://mastergardener.osu.edu>. And www.ohioline.osu.edu;

Ohio MG Volunteer system sign in: <https://ohio.volunteersystem.org> and OSUE's 'Buckeye Yard and Garden on Line': <http://bygl.osu.edu/>

<http://vegnet.osu.edu>; <http://ourohio.org/home-gardens/>; and

<http://www.hummingbirds.net/map.html>.

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Clinton County MG 2016 Meeting Dates:

The Association meets on the fourth Thursday of each month unless otherwise noted. All regular meetings begin at 6:30 pm. (*note time change*)

January 28, 2016	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
February 25	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
March 24	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
April 28	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
May 26	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm

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THOUGHTS... "January is here, with eyes that keenly glow,

A frost-mailed warrior striding a shadowy steed of snow." - Edgar Fawcett- "



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Master Gardener Program - Ohio State University Extension Our 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.

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