

# 'THE COMPOST' NEWSLETTER

CLINTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

March – April, 2016

## Ohio State University Extension -

### Clinton County

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## Next *COMPOST*

Deadline: April 25

Please submit items in MS Word  
Format to Judy Grosvenor at:  
[grosvenor.judy@hotmail.com](mailto:grosvenor.judy@hotmail.com)

### **MARK YOU CALENDAR:**

**3-24-2016:** MG meeting/Ext.  
Office - 6:30 pm.

**4-14-16:** Sq. Foot Gardening  
Workshop at Library.

**4-28-2016:** MG meeting/Wilm.  
Library - 6:00 pm.

**5-14-2016:** MG Plant Sale.



## "Spring"

The Spring has come again  
For the grass is growing green,  
And among the fields of clover  
Bright butterflies are seen.  
The little birds are singing sweetly  
As they fly from tree to tree...  
The busy bees are gathering  
The honey from the flowers,  
And the merry birds are building  
Their nests in sheltered bowers...

~Josephine D.C., "Spring," c.1887



## OVER THE GARDEN FENCE...

*Letter from the Prez:...*



I think each of us has to smile as we head outdoors amid the early arrival of spring. Sunshine, daffodils in abundance and the first glimmerings of leaves on bare branches. My crocuses were up before I returned from an extended trip in February, in fact, I almost missed seeing them. I would not have liked that one bit. With the advent of springtime, we also have a multitude of excellent gardening workshops and conferences to choose from. Be sure to take in one or two. They not only help provide our education hours as Master Gardeners, but they also inspire and motivate each of us to try something a little new and exciting in our personal gardens and landscapes.

As we plan for our plant sale, we will have an opportunity to share some the interesting gardening ideas that we have tried or learned about at a workshop or conference. Maybe something you had experienced this spring will be of value as we plan for May. Or, it could be shared during our education segment at a monthly meeting. I know that I do not have the breadth of knowledge that some in our group have accumulated, but even I can share for 15 minutes about a limited topic to enhance everyone's knowledge during an education segment. Gather your courage and sign up at the next meeting to provide just one meeting's education topic.

Finally, do get out and enjoy the sunshine, the breezes, the sweet scents of hyacinths and Korean Spice viburnum, and the fun of getting that dirt under your fingernails. I know a clean house is important, but time in the garden is important too, and a lot more fun than cleaning indoors!

*Think spring,*

***Cindy Halye, CCMG President***

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### **Minutes: Clinton County Master Gardener Association March 24, 2016**

In attendance: Cindy Halye- President, Beverly Drapalik- Treasurer, Jeff Drapalik, Dori Sabino, Mary Helen Mack, Juanita Tigar, Roxanne Luff, Mary Harris, Raymond Koch, and Tony Nye.

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 by President Cindy Halye.

**Extension Report:** Tony reported he has been quite busy with the Farm Schools and is looking forward to being finished with those soon. They have been very well received and attended. He also reported we have been approached about another anonymous donation and he is working through how to accept it with administration. He also voiced his opinion we should postpone the MG Demonstration Garden to be located on the property near the Extension office until fall so we have many ongoing projects and can better prepare to approach the commissioners with a comprehensive development plan.

**Presidents Report:** Cindy reminded all attending that we each need to do some paperwork on the MGVN website when we log on to report our hours. Follow the instructions on the website that will take you through what you need to do. She is currently gathering information to plan the annual summer garden tour. She has also volunteered to host the summer MG picnic.

**V. President:** Jeff repeated the details for the upcoming Wilmington Library Square Foot Gardening Workshop, April 14th. He will contact those involved to finalize the instruction details 1 to 2 weeks prior to the date. A library laptop projector will be reserved for the evening.

**Secretary's report:** Absent- Dori Sabino will take notes.

**Treasurer's report:** Beverly reported the 2016 budget was approved as submitted at the last meeting.

**Old Business:** Kelly volunteered to do a spring clean-up of the garden behind the Extension office. Cindy suggested a MG work day at our project sites when necessary. 5013c status was briefly discussed and Tony will investigate legal advice and costs involved in this lengthy process.

**Plant Sale: May 14<sup>th</sup>** Workshops are to include: Tony- Vegetable Garden Fertility, Dori- Succulent box take away, and teacup flower arrangement take away, Mary Helen- TBA. Times for workshops will be 10am, 11am, 12pm and 1pm. Ray and Tony will again be transporting the plants from Juanita's. Dori and Deb consulted in ordering exotic varieties of tomato seeds for Juanita to grow for the plant sale.

**Arbor Day Tree Giveaway-** In order to promote the new CCMG Facebook page we have purchased 100 hardwood saplings from C.C. Soil and Water Tree Sale to be given free to those individuals who "like" and then "share" our Facebook page. Since C.C Soil and Water does not know when these trees will be arriving, we will need to remain flexible as to the timing of the giveaway. Approximation is April 6-16th.

**Pollinator Week June 20 -26:** Roxanne continues to work hard getting the Pollinator Scavenger Hunt for children details worked out. She will contact members for help, once she creates a letter of invitation to businesses that will need to be hand carried to each potential participant. Only 15 businesses may participate. Once in place, an announcement will be posted on our Facebook page. Children will visit the participating businesses and receive a participation brochure, and a stamp from each business location in the form of a pollinator. Once they collect all 15 pollinator stamps, the first 50 participants will bring their completed brochure to the Extension office to be awarded a Pollinator Kit. There will be 25 explorer themed kits and 25 garden themed kits. Costs to be covered by participating businesses.

**Cowan Lake Pollinator Garden.** Roxanne has put together an agreement in writing as to the construction and ongoing maintenance of the proposed Pollinator Garden. CCMG's will be responsible for installation, signage, and twice yearly maintenance. The Naturalists will develop a program utilizing the space for educational purposes. Roxanne proposed a budget of \$160.00 to cover mulch and signage, with the bulk of the plant material to be donated by CCMG members. ( Dori motioned, Mary Helen seconded) A sign up list was circulated. She will contact members as she gets closer to installation for delivery of plant material and help needed on installation day.

**Backyard Food Production Demonstration** area at Denver Park. Dori would like to continue to add to the area every year. A budget of \$100.00 was proposed and voted. Plants already on site include; asparagus, raspberry, Jerusalem artichoke, rhubarb, serviceberry, hazelnut, elderberry, shell bark hickory and chestnut (deer damaged but re-growing). Proposed additions- mulberry, paw paw, persimmon, jostaberry, honeyberry, hardy almond, hardy pecan, yellow horn and large fruited Mountain Ash. The purpose of this area is to demonstrate easy care, no spray food production and the growth habits of unusual food bearing plants. This area is located in a small clearing adjacent to the walking trail between Kroger and the pond on Fife Rd. Cindy expressed concern that the park did not maintain the mowing of the surrounding grass properly. Dori will speak to park maintenance.

**New Business:** Dori invited the CCMG's to once again participate in the April 23 NLCI Earth Day educational program. No Child Left Indoors is doing a tree education for children. It was discussed that if all the trees from Arbor Day are not given out we may consider doing something with NCLI at that time.

Dori also shared plans to work with Wilmington Parks to develop a fantasy area in the woods leading to the new Splash Park to commence construction this spring. This area will include Gnome homes and children's seating area made of natural materials to encourage woodland play.

Roxanne proposed the **next meeting be moved to the Wilmington Library at 6pm April 28** so she may utilize the libraries tech resources to teach members how to use the Facebook site. You may bring your own laptop or tablet, or use the libraries. A regular meeting will follow this education at 7 to 8pm. This is the last meeting before the plant sale, and is very important. Save those bags and boxes for the sale!  
Meeting Adjourned: 8:20pm

## **FROM TONY**

***Greetings Master Gardeners and Happy New Year,***



Spring has sprung and several early flowers and flowering trees are in full bloom. Let's hope that April showers (Not too many) bring May flowers and lots of folks to our annual plant sale. It has been a wacky and very busy winter for me and I can honestly say I see some light at the end of the tunnel. The discussions we had at our last Master Gardener meeting about various projects I thought were very good and I felt once again that even though we are small in numbers we are mighty in effort and cause.

The projects we are involved with are all very important and will pay dividends for us in the end. Let us all keep thinking outside the box for projects and programs. Make sure you document your hours in the MGV website and be sure if you need help to contact Judy Grosvenor for assistance. Don't wait until the end of the year.

Let's have a great spring plant sale and educational program and look to summer for more great things to be involved with.

Happy Gardening  
**Tony**



## **Here are some interesting facts:**

Butterflies, hummingbirds and moths are also among the list of pollinators.

Honey bees account for about 80 percent of all pollination and are estimated to pollinate 33 percent of crops. Beehives typically house 10,000 to 100,000 honey bees. There is one Queen Honey bee who oversees everything. Worker honey bees do the pollinating, honey making, and keeping the hive clean and productive.

Bluebirds lay one egg per day. They usually lay four to five eggs each brood.

Thirty minutes is the average time between feedings for young birds. They eat dawn until dusk.

Two to five weeks is the age of most juveniles when they've grown enough plumage to leave the nest. A fledgling will spend an average of ten days hopping and flitting before learning how to fully fly.

A chickadee may eat 35 percent of its weight in food each day while a Blue Jay may eat only 10 percent of its weight and a Common Raven only 4 percent—but they all need more calories on colder days than warmer ones.

Hummingbirds can consume 100 percent of their body's weight in sugar water or nectar every day, in addition to as many as 2,000 tiny insects!

*from 'Birds and Blooms and Discover.Monsanto.com.*

***'Garden: One of a vast number of free outdoor restaurants operated by charity-minded amateurs in an effort to provide healthful, balanced meals for insects, birds and animals.***

- Henry Beard and Roy McKie, *Gardener's Dictionary*

## **The Birds and the Bees:**

One of the projects we are working on this spring is protecting and promoting nature's pollinators. Roxanne is the chair on this project, be sure to speak with her and volunteer to help.



## **Reminders for You**

Our VMS system website - <https://ohio.volunteersystem.org/users/clubhours.cfm?summary=yes> .

We would like you to remember to document your educational and volunteer time, after each event. Then be sure to add them to the above website, monthly. This helps you with more accurate time entries and helps me with less last minute searches for our volunteer time. Any questions please call Judy.

## **PLANT OF THE MONTH...**

### **Gnomes.**

They are in the news and in the garden stores everywhere. I usually ignore them. I don't particularly like garden tchotchke. A friend of mine collects them and I got her one holding a sign that reads "REALLY?" There are gnomes for every occasion, there are gnomes wearing the logo of every college and NFL football team, and yes, even gnomes with the Ohio State logo, as well as several shirt styles with Ohio State University gnomes on them. (<http://www.gnomefrenzy.com/ohio-state-university-garden-gnome.html>). They are an internet sensation recently, and something I have had my eye on for the last several months.



Now, those of you who know me, may know I have invested a great deal of my effort as a Master Gardener finding ways to make our local outdoor community spaces not only more attractive, but to draw youth into discovering the environment around them. It is my feeling that the more people find these spaces useful, the more likely they are to appreciate community, nature, and the systems that support these outdoor spaces.

With that in mind, I ran across a picture on the internet of a large tree stump that had been decorated as though a tiny being lived there. It seemed relatively easy to create and maintain, durable, and looked like children may be inclined to stop along the trail and imagine what might be living there. I dug a little deeper.

It seems like from California to Kansas to Pennsylvania, little gnome homes were popping up. And as they did, they were drawing big attention from the news, as well as young families looking for inspiration to take their children on a hike into the woods to find these little homes. Hmmm.....I feel a plan forming.....

Maybe a little gnome background. Modern garden gnomes are based on the legendary "Gnomes" of myth, mysticism, and fairy tales. Gnomes have historically been described as small (from a few inches to a foot or two in height) stout beings who live in Nature - usually underground. European magicians and other mystics considered gnomes the most common and important elemental spirits of the 'Earth' element (the other three classical elements being: 'Water,' 'Fire,' and 'Air'). Gnomes were said to wear conical hats and to be able to move through the earth itself as easily as

we humans walk upon it, yet if any of these underground dwellers were caught out in the daylight it said that the rays of the Sun turned them into stone.

I was looking for a project for this spring and began to investigate if it would be feasible to create such a space in our local woodlands. With ground breaking this spring for a community splash park designed for kids underway this year at Denver Park, it seemed a compatible idea.



Here's what I learned researching what other communities were doing with the idea. Some gnomes travel with families to different camping parks. Some were showing up painted on town utility poles and many were little villages hidden in the woods. Some even as simple as one wooden door where wishes written on slips of paper were left inside.

(Subsequently removed and answered by local Master Gardeners in secret).

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=f\\_ooTuYuuVw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=f_ooTuYuuVw)).

In fact, last month, one located in Pennsylvania drew so much foot traffic to the state park trail where it was installed; it had to be removed, as the PA State Parks was concerned about soil compaction and adverse effects on wildlife habitat! There are currently petitions to have it replaced! That story has

dominated all the internet results in the last several weeks on the topic.

I feel that any excuse that gets a child into the woods to play, is worth exploring. Recently, I offered the idea to both the city parks and to our group. Park management is currently evaluating their properties for the best location and are committed to developing use of public park spaces. I have been working on the concept and welcome any help with this project.

I am excited to get to work on the large tree stump, and plan several other small displays in the same area. I hope you check out the link provided. It seems so simple and silly, but people seem to love the idea. *'Spurring imagination, fantasy and a child's curiosity.....Gnome homes..... of all things.'* Ungnome author; Dori S.



## 2016 WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, & SEMINARS:



### Upcoming events:



**March 9, 2016, 7 to 9 pm 2016 Winter Hort Series: Wildflowers of Ohio at Warren Co. Armco Park.** See above- same info. (3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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.

**April 13 to 17<sup>th</sup>; Cincinnati Flower Show** at Yeatman's Cove, 705 East Pete Rose Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202. Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 10:00 AM - Sunday, April 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM. Tickets available at Kroger or event.

**June 26 – 27, 2016 – Gardens Matter.** Cuyahoga Co. garden tour at and near Zoar, Oh. For info- contact [cuyahoga.osu.edu](http://cuyahoga.osu.edu)

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

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**MARK THE DATE:**

As a reminder, **CC Master Gardeners Plant Sale is Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, doors open at 9 am. We will be setting up on the 13<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am to 'done'. We do need all hands for both days, as this is a lot of work and every bit of help is greatly appreciated, as well as meeting and working with our customers.

We also, have four classes scheduled for the day, 10 am, 11 am and noon and 1 pm. Please Spread the word and let your friends and neighbors about our sale and programs.

**ALSO:**

The Wilmington Garden Club will have their annual plant sale on Sat., May 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Historical carriage barn, starting at 9 am. All most all the plants are perrenial flowers, and costs are two dollars each. These plants are home grown, divided from the club members gardens. Cash accepted and no early sales.

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The Ohio Invasive Plants Council (OIPC) has posted on their website, [www.oipc.info](http://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](http://www.ohioline.osu.edu);

**Ohio MG Volunteer system sign in:** <https://ohio.volunteersystem.org> and

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

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>.

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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 13 & 14                              **Set up and Plant Sale Day**

May 26                                      Regular Meeting **6:30 pm**

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*THOUGHTS...*      **"It is always exciting to open the door and go out into the garden for the first time on any day." - Marion Cran -"**

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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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