

'THE COMMPOST' NEWSLETTER

CLINTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Mar.– April, 2015

Ohio State University Extension -

Clinton County

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Next *COMMPOST*

Deadline: April 23

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

MARK YOU CALENDAR:

4-23: Next MG meeting.

4-25: Earth Day: Children
Program at Wilmington Library.

5-8/9: Plant Sale & Classes at
the Extension office.



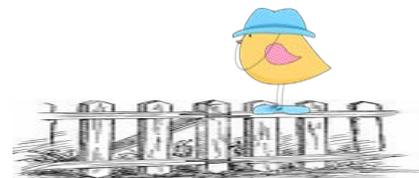
TOP TEN REASONS TO GARDEN...

10. We are all kids and we all love to play in the dirt.
9. It's legal to exterminate your enemies!
8. You can bury your mistakes in the Compost pile.
7. Doesn't require a remote control and 'boot up' means put on your garden boots.
6. Hauling manure is good for my husband.
5. Good excuse to shop at favorite Garden Center, *Knollwood's*.
4. You can blame the weather if anything goes wrong!
3. Has nothing to do with politics.
2. Gardening helps make connections for lasting memories.
1. It's the best for emotional needs and spiritual connections!

by Lynn Shea, a Gardener

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE...

Spring...



Well, I feel like I have spent enough miserable cold days and need spring and a little digging time in the dirt to calm me down. I hope you are looking forward to warm weather as much as me.

As we kick into our 2015 MG season, we have had our first MG program at the Wilmington Library with Cindy Halye and Dori Sabino presenting 'The Awakening Garden'. We will be helping with the Earth Day celebration on April 25th from 10 am to noon at the library. We will be helping children plant sunflower seeds and getting into a little dirt.

Our annual Spring MG Plant sale is coming up on May 9th and there will be many opportunities to volunteer. If you would like to teach a class, please be sure to let me know. We have three classes set up but can add more.

There will be many opportunities to attend educational classes, visit other MG county plant sales, obtain your volunteer hours and truly enjoy learning and teaching others about Master Gardener's program. I hope you take the time as you map out your spring, summer and fall.

Our next meeting will be on Mar. 26 at 6:30 pm, and April 23 at 6:30 pm (**note the new time**) in the community room. Looking forward to seeing everyone and planning out the new year in front of us.

Think warm,

Judy Grosvenor, CCMG President

Minutes: *Clinton County Master Gardener Association Feb. 26, 2015*

In attendance: Judy Grosvenor, Mary Harris, Beverly and Jeff Drapalik, Connie Hardie, Ray Koch, Dori Sabino, Kelly Wilburn and new intern Roxanne Luff.

The Clinton County Master Gardeners met at in the Extension community room at 6:30 pm, (new earlier time) and President Judy Grosvenor opened the meeting. New intern, Roxanne Luff was welcomed to the meeting. (Email: roxyfish@hotmail.com) She is talking her classes with the Greene Co. MG program and will transfer when they are completed to do her volunteer hours in Clinton Co.

Treasurer's report was given and next month, the budget will be presented for review and approval.

Dori reported on the Wilmington Library program she and Cindy Halye did on March 8th on "the awakening garden". They had good attendance and presented a great program with everyone going home with a small potted garden.

May 9th Annual Spring MG Plant Sale and Classes: discussion was had on the plant sale and classes. At this time we have 3 classes set up for the public; Make a Hummingbird feeder, Making a rain barrel, Cooking with Herbs. We could still have one more class.

For advertising Dori will notify the radios, Beverly will do the WNJ newspaper, Roxanne will do Kroger and Jeff will notify Debbie Stamper and other local websites.

Discussion was also on Earth Day programs in Wilmington and we voted to help the Library with a children's program on April 25th. Addition discussion was had on the many available projects and a list will be made for next meeting.

Dori presented the educational portion of the meeting on Pollinators, especially the native Mason bees and how to make the hives to attract them to your yard.

Meeting was adjourned. Minutes respectfully submitted, Judy Grosvenor.



FROM TONY

Greeting Master Gardener Enthusiasts.

Spring is on the way. I missed being at the MG meetings, but will see you soon. Please take the time to review all the activities and projects that are available to volunteer and chose several and give them your best efforts and attention. Also, the annual Spring Plant Sale and classes is May 9th, everyone is needed to make this a great year.

Until next time

Tony



SPRING at Denver Park Entrance...



Check out the planters at the entrance to the Denver Park. Dori has given them an update, announcing spring. We have many projects that are excellent opportunities for our membership to volunteer for. Several projects at Denver Park, including the new Dog Park, the Southeast Neighbor Park, the Ecotrail through Wilmington, our MG small park in back of Extension building, Habitat for Humanity, Wilmington Library speaker program.

First project coming up: We are scheduled to man a children's' **'Sunflower Pollinator'** booth on **April 25, 2015 from 10 am to noon**, at the Library and we will be helping them plant sunflower seeds. We need several volunteers and there is a plant swap that morning, too.

The second big project coming up is the May 9th annual MG Plant Sale and Classes. We need all members to assist in this project to make it a success and run smoothly. We are setting up the community room on Friday, May 8th, estimate start time 11 am. There will be classes open for the public, MG helpers on the plant floor to direct and answer questions, box and carry out plants. We also, need to be advertising to all our friends and community.

PLANT OF THE MONTH...

Seed-Starting Essentials

Starting plants from seed has many practical benefits: You save money, get a head start on the growing season, and choose from varieties far beyond those locally available. By starting seeds, you also get to experience the joy of watching a seemingly lifeless seed sprout into a living plant. A seed is a plant embryo and its initial food supply is stored within a protective coating. Seeds remain dormant until a combination of moisture, temperature, air, and light triggers germination. Seeds have different shelf lives. Some will remain viable for hundreds of years, whereas others may only store well for a couple of years.



Times for Starting Seeds

Knowing when to start seeds indoors takes some backward thinking. Find out the average date of the last frost in your area and the number of weeks before that date you should start a particular seed. (The number of weeks varies and is listed on the seed package.) Then count backward on the calendar from the average last frost date to know when you should begin starting seeds. As a general rule, start most seeds six to eight weeks before your average last frost date. If you begin starting seeds too early, you'll have to keep the seedlings inside too long, and they will be weak by transplant time.

Ready to get starting seeds? Just add water. Water softens the seed coat and allows the food source stored within to nourish the emerging seedling. You must keep your seed-starting medium moist -- but not soggy -- until sprouts appear. Small containers dry out quickly, so check them often. Seeds vary in the amount of light they need to germinate. Some must have lots of light, so they should not be covered with soil when you are starting seeds. Others do best with some light, requiring just a thin covering of soil. Still other seeds germinate best in darkness and should be covered with 1/4 inch of fine soil, firmed down. Check the recommendations on the seed packages. After starting seeds and germination, light is essential for all seedlings, and it can be natural or artificial. If you have sunny windows in your home, take full advantage of them. You'll need to supplement sunlight with artificial light. Seedlings require 12 to 16 hours of light per day

Good Temperature for Starting Seeds

Temperature needs of starting seeds are different during and after germination. During germination, the warmer the soil, the better. The recommended soil temperature range for most seeds started indoors is 75° to 90°F. If room temperature is about 70°F, you may need to place containers in a warm spot, such as near a kitchen stove, heat vent, or on top of the refrigerator. After the seedlings are up, 60° to 70°F is fine.

From: *Better Homes/Garden* website: <http://www.bhg/garden>



2014 WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, & SEMINARS:

Feb. 5 – April 9, 2015: Training for new MGV program ever Thursday, 9 am to 3:30 pm at the Xenia Community Center: 1265 W. 2nd St, Xenia, OH 45385. Learn more about the 2015 Master Gardener Training by contacting the OSUE Clinton County office, 937-382-0901.

March 5th, 2015: 16th Annual Central Ohio Perennial Flower School, at Hollenbeck Bayley Creative Arts and Conference Center, 275 South Limestone St., Springfield, OH 45505 Cost: \$60. Info: <http://clark.osu.edu>

April 4, 2015- Clark County Garden Fling: check <http://clark.osu.edu> for more info.

April 9, 2015 – 8 am to 4:30 pm: 21st Annual Southwest Perennial School. More info: contact the <http://clermont.osu.edu>.

April 25, 2015 – 10am to noon: Earth Day Program “Great Sunflower Project” helping children planting booth. Contact Judy to volunteer.

May 2, 2015 – 9 am to noon: Wilmington Garden Club plant sale at back of Historical Society building. All plants, \$2.

May 2, 2015 – 9 am to 1 pm: Greene Co. MG plant sale. For info: <http://greene.osu.edu>.

May 9, 2015 – 9 am to 2 pm: Clinton Co. MG Plant Sale and classes. Contact Judy Grosvenor to volunteer.

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

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>.
- Ohio MG Volunteer system sign in: <https://ohio.volunteersystem.org>
- <http://vegnet.osu.edu>; <http://ouohio.org/home-gardens/> ; www.ohioline.osu.edu;
- <http://www.growingvegetablegardens.com/index.htm>
- <http://www.hummingbirds.net/map.html>.



Clinton County MG 2015 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 22	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
February 26	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
March 26	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
April 23	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
May 9	Plant Sale
May 28	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm



THOUGHTS...

"If nothing changed, there'd be no butterflies." - Walt Disney



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.

OSU Extension Clinton County
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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.