

# CLINTON COUNTY COMPOST



**Jan.-Feb., 2013**

**Ohio State University  
Extension -  
Clinton County**

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**Next *COMPOST***

**Deadline:  
Feb. 21**

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



**"January"**

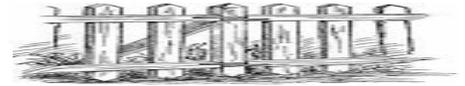
"January opens  
The box of the year  
And brings out days  
That are bright and clear  
And brings out days  
That are cold and grey  
And shouts, "Come see  
What I brought today!"

- Leland B. Jacobs -



**OVER THE GARDEN FENCE...**

**Happy New Year...**



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and is looking forward to a great New Year. I am both excited and just a little in awe as we start a new year with the OSUE Clinton County Master Gardener Volunteers. My goals as President include enriching our knowledge and enjoyment as MG's, educational information for our community and beautification of our environment.

As Master Gardeners, there will be many opportunities to attend one of the many exciting and educational seminars that are available within our region. I encourage you to attend at least one and see the interest and excitement of others in gardening.

Our community turns to us to help with questions and for information on gardening in our area. This will be happening in many ways and presenting many opportunities for us. The gardening hotline is a very important part. We want to be looking out for insect and environmental issues and educating the community as well. We also, want to be encouraging both young and older groups in both ornamental and vegetable gardening and "The joy of getting your hands dirty".

I have been very proud of each MG's service and involvement in our organization. You have shown friendship, excitement and educational knowledge in your service. There is plenty of scope for all our garden passions. We start a new year with many opportunities to continue our volunteer service in something that we all love and enjoy sharing with others. I will be counting on you each to help continue with establishing and choosing our goals and seeing them through.

I thank you for all your service and look forward to making 2014 a great gardening year with you.

***Judy Grosvenor, CCMG President***

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**Minutes: *Clinton County Master Gardener Association Nov. 21, 2013***

In attendance: Judy Grosvenor, Dori Sabino, Deb Geglein, Beverly Drapalik, Joanne Weston, James Stein, Bettyanne Short, Andrew Conarro, Mary Harris, Mary Helen Mack, Debbie Tong, Ray Koch, Kelly Wilburn.

Meeting opened by President Dori Sabino at 7:00 pm.

**Extension Report:** Tony was away. Judy passed out "Ask a Master Gardener" magnets for us to share with others.

**President's Report:** We were asked to get our pictures taken for our members listing. A decision was made on how much to spend on a Christmas gift for Tony. Joanne made a motion that we spend \$35.00-40.00. It was seconded by Bettyanne. Motion carried.

**Vice President's Report:** Reminder to list hours on VMS system by end of November. Coordinators conference call will give policy changes for MGs for next year. State hours will be pulled off VMS in Jan. of 2014.

**Treasurer's Report:** On reverse side of agenda.

**Secretary's Report:** Cindy was absent. Debbie Tong took minutes of meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

**Denver Park:** Dori trimmed roses and general cleanup work at Denver Park.

Farmers' Market: Winter Market ends on December 7th. It will be at Swindlers Garden Center. Spring market will start back up in March.

Habitat for Humanity Homes: Dori showed a power point presentation of the two Westboro Habitat Homes with their completed landscaping. These homes were our 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Habitat Homes. Judy suggested we contact previous Habitat owners and offer classes to help them keep the plantings healthy. We did our first Habitat home in 2010.

CommPost: Judy will email the November /December issue. Extension will have it posted on the website as soon as they can.

Education Program: New standards will start in January. The Gold standard will require active members to have 20 volunteer hours along with 10 education hours for the year. Recertification forms will be offered in hard copy and be available on the web. Wilmington College will offer education hrs. March 7<sup>th</sup> 2014.

Education Segment: Dori educated us on the Monk plant. It is used commercially as a sweetener. It is sold under the trade name of Nectresse. It grows exclusively in a certain region in China. It was fascinating to learn about. Dori even brought in samples to share. Green County will be offering a big Bee seminar in the Spring. A chairperson is needed for our '15 minute in-house education' project.

### Old Business:

MG Constitution: New constitutions were passed out.

The 2014 officers are: President—Judy Grosvenor, VP—Cindy Halye, Secretary.—Debbie Tong, Treasurer.—Deb Geglain.

### New Business:

Christmas Get Together set for December 12, 2013, to be held at the General Denver at 6:30. Gift exchange optional, \$15 limit.

Tony discussed initiating the 1st detector program. To be discussed more when he returns.

Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Debbie Tong, secretary.



### FROM TONY

Hello Fellow Master Gardeners;

It has been a rough winter thus far for many of us and there is a lot more **Winter** on the calendar. The silver lining thus far is that we have not gotten literally FEET OF SNOW.

Another point I want to make is that we may actually see a decline of certain insects that overwinter in Ohio because of the prolong of very cold temperatures. We really won't know until we get to warmer seasons and observe scouted numbers to know if they declined.

Finally, I am asking that you all help Judy out with what is required of all of you when it pertains to getting Information on the computer. You all need to (either on your own or with the help of Judy) sign into the VMS system and check off the three pages of your recertification. <https://ohio.volunteersystem.org>. This is required by all of you to keep your Master Gardener Volunteer Status. If you have issues getting through the system the only way we can help is if we know and can make arrangement to assist you. This is not something that can keep being put off. I ask that you **PLEASE GET IT DONE**.

You are all a wonderful group to work with and you all add something special with your specialty areas. I would hate to lose you from our group on a technicality.

Please for the sake of this winter – Be Safe, Be Warm, and Keep Gardening!

Until next time, *Tony*

## WINTER BIRDING TAKES OFF...



*Angry Birds* isn't the only exploding pastime with feathers. An estimated 85 million of us enjoy observing, photographing or feeding wild birds during the year. Website: **eBird.org** launched in 2002 by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, has revolutionized fieldwork with its BirdsEye tracking app. Members worldwide submit data on bird sightings to create a real-time glimpse of migration and location.

The annual **Great Backyard Bird Count**, a snapshot of bird activities held this year on Feb.14-17, set a record in 2013 of 100,000 common-bird checklists. Chirpy smartphones put encyclopedic guides in your palm and connect fellow peeps (try #birding or #birdwatch on Twitter). Monitor rare-bird alerts or bird cams at Cornell Lab's portal at [cam.allaboutbirds.org](http://cam.allaboutbirds.org).

from: [usaweekend.com](http://usaweekend.com).



## Heart-Shaped Plants for Valentine's

How about heart-shaped plants as a gift for Valentine's, either for yourself or others. *Dicentra*, Bleeding heart is native to Asia with the unusual heart-shaped flowers. The plant prefers shade and cool temperatures. Some new cultivars like Gold Heart have gold foliage.

Caladiums are known for bicolored, heart-shaped leaves that are often in these four colors: pink, red, white and green. The heart-shaped petals and leaves of pansies have long been associated with love. They were first cultivated in only three colors: purple, white and yellow. Old folklore says the colors symbolized memories and loving thoughts.



Valentine's day, oh how gay!  
Presidents' day is coming our way.  
February, sweet and small, greatest month of all."  
- Eric Lies, *28 Word Poem for February*

## Encouraging Bees in your Backyard

by Beverly Drapalik

"What is your New Year's Resolution for your garden?" When I was asked this question last week, I had an answer ready! My husband has been keeping bees for more than twenty years, and 2013 was the worst honey "production" we have ever had. After consulting websites, talking with experts, and asking other beekeepers, we arrived at several reasons for getting only five quarts of honey from six hives. Exhaust fumes from diesel engines and machines, pesticides and herbicides, lack of variety in flora, and extreme weather conditions are logical explanations.



Like any gardener, the resolution for our garden actually has become a resolution for the backyard. We are turning at least half the yard into wildflowers and those flowers will be in the flight path of the bees. Those workers can't help but notice the extra color and aroma! Bees rely on aromas, but also patterns of flora that "look" as if they might contain nectar and pollen. So, after designing a new backyard, we are hoping the bees will decide the new plot is a worth the stop on the way out of the hive.

Bees need a variety of blooms in order to receive a healthy diet. A steady diet of corn and soy beans is probably not enough. So, hopefully, more blooms in the back of the yard, instead of beds around the house, will help our bees. Also, if gardeners could return to blooms our grandmothers grew, bees would eat very well. Bees are usually busy with clover and dandelions in the Spring, but a year-round diet might include crocus and lilacs in the Spring; coneflower, cosmos and sunflowers in the Summer; and zinnias and sedum in the Fall. New hybrid flowers and double flowers don't contain enough nectar and pollen for bees. The more pollen, the more all of our vegetables and plants will grow! Also, single, flat blooms give standing room for bees while they eat.

Nothing can be done about engine fumes in our area, but we can make sure we are not using pesticides and herbicides. Even if we think a product is safe, we do not know what could be toxic to our bees. And, even if a product doesn't kill the bees, it might kill flora that affects output of nectar and pollen.

Nothing can be done about the weather, but we can do something about the number and variety of flowers in our yard. We may go for the mass impact—several plots of poppies and our usual sunflowers edging the wildflowers. The design remains to be seen, but at least this resolution is one that may not be broken!



## PLANT OF THE MONTH...

### **American Witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana* L.)**

*By Larry Stritch*

American witch-hazel is a member of the Witch-hazel family. The genus name *Hamamelis* is Latin from the Greek meaning a kind of medlar or service tree. The species name *virginiana* refers to being from Virginia. This native grows throughout northeast and southeast North America, from Nova Scotia to Florida and from the Great Lakes to eastern Texas. It is particularly abundant in the Appalachian Mountains. American Witch hazel grows in moist, shaded sites in forests and at the forest edge.



As the leaves of the trees are all but fallen, the witch hazel comes into glorious bloom in late October to early November in the eastern United States. The yellow flowers exude a pleasant spicy fragrance.

American witch-hazel is a shrub or small tree with arching branches generally growing as a dense, multi-stemmed clump reaching heights of 20 – 30 feet and widths of 15 to 20 feet.; however the shrub form typically does not grow over 12 – 15 feet tall. Leaves are alternate, simple, broadly ovate, 2.5 – 6 inches long, unequal offset leaf base, with large wavy teeth on the margins and with the upper surface dark green and the lower surface a paler green. This woody plant is extraordinary in its flowering pattern. The flowers are bright yellow, with 4 very slender creamy to bright yellow petals  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long, appearing in mid to late fall. The flowers are fragrant. Generally, its bright yellow flowers are the only sign of color in woods. American witch-hazel is pollinated by a moth.

American witch-hazel is adaptable to home landscaping situations. It should be planted on the north side of homes and north-facing slopes where semi-shaded habits are more common. It prefers rich moist soils and requires regular watering when being established. If planted in the full sunlight it may suffer, occurring in nature as an understory plant. Many gardeners have been abandoning the planting of American witch-hazel and are now selecting a number of the Asiatic hybrids. However, some hybrid flowers have no fragrance. American witch-hazel can be grown from seeds that have been cold stratified. Seeds should be planted in pots and generally grown in them for up to two to three years before they are mature enough to transplant. Flowering does not start until the plants are at least six years old.

Some hybrid varieties of witch hazel:

*Hamamelis x intermedia* ‘Primavera’ - Available since 1969, this upright grower blooms from late January into March. Its honey-yellow flowers have a bright, rich scent.

*H. x intermedia* ‘Orange Beauty’ - Wider than it is high at maturity—12 feet by ten feet—the Orange Beauty's deeply pigmented flowers have a strong smell and are deer resistant.

*H. x intermedia* ‘Rochester’ - Maximum size is nine feet wide by nine feet high. Copper-orange flowers bloom early and give off a strong, spicy scent not unlike that of tuberose.

*H. mollis* ‘Brevipetala’ - A vase-shaped upright that can reach 12 feet wide by 12 feet high. Yellow blooms flourish in full sun and can flower from January through March.

*H. x intermedia* ‘Arnold Promise’ Shrubs grows 20 feet high and are heavy bloomers, producing strongly scented yellow flowers into March.

from: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/>



## 2014 WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, & SEMINARS:

**Jan 23, 2014** - Free Lectures at Cincinnati Museum Center With: Dr. Kyle M. Straub, Tulane University on “Rock Studies (A Flawed Record of Earth’s History, But the Best One We Have)” at Reakirt Auditorium at Cincinnati Museum Center (Union Terminal). For info: <http://www.cincymuseum.org/newsletter>.

**February 15, 2014, ( am to 4 pm** - Four Seasons of Color is the theme of this year's annual Winter Seminar of the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown. Take a look at some of the best trees, shrubs, and perennials for Midwest gardens and how to combine them to create an ever-changing landscape that can be enjoyed for 12 months of the year. For info: <http://www.mgcy.org/Pages/WinterSeminar.aspx> or call John Kolar at 330-545-2266

**2014 Winter Horticultural Series: Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>; 7 pm to 8:30 pm.** Series: Invasive Insects and Pests, New Perennials for 2014 and How to Grow Prize winning Tomatoes. At the Warren County Armco Park, Pavilion, 1223 N State Route 741, Lebanon, OH 45036-9746, 513-695-1311. For info: [www.warren.osu.edu](http://www.warren.osu.edu).

**March 3, 2014 8:30 am to 4:15pm** – Central Ohio Perennial Flower Show. Location: Hollenbeck Bayley Conference Center, 275 So. Limestone St., Springfield, Ohio. Speakers: Richard Hawke, Plant Trial Manager, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Chris Hansen, Co-owner Great Garden Plants.com and Michele Thomas, Horticulturist at Inniswood Metro Gardens. Info: [www.clark.osu.edu](http://www.clark.osu.edu).

**March 15, 2014 8 am to 3:30 pm** – Art of Gardening Seminar at Ohio State University, Lima Campus Life Sciences Building, 4240 Campus Drive, Lima, Ohio. For info: call 419-302-4234.

**Wed. March 19, 2014, 11:30—1:30 pm** “Attracting Butterflies & Birds”

Attract butterflies & birds to your backyard with Trudy Keck and Cathy Trimmer from Alley Park Outdoor Education Staff. For info: [www.fairfield.osu.edu](http://www.fairfield.osu.edu). 740.653.5419

**Saturday, March 22, 2014: Southwestern Ohio Beekeeper School**, 8 am to 4 pm. Location at the Oasis Conference Center, 902 Loveland Miamiville Road, Loveland, Ohio. For more info: <http://warren.osu.edu>. (Classes fill fast. )

**July 5 – 12. 2014 Clinton Co. Fair** at fairgrounds in Wilmington. For info: [www.clinton.osu.edu](http://www.clinton.osu.edu).

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

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