



Master Gardener
Ohio State University Extension Volunteer

<http://clark.osu.edu/topics/horticulture/blades-blooms-newsletters>

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Blades and Blooms

Master Gardeners of Clark County

PO Box 158, Springfield, Ohio 45501-0158 Volume 18 Number 10 October 11



Mark Your Calendar !

October

- 3 10-12 OSUE OC
10-12 Early Ohio Settler's Wrap
Up Meeting
- 5 9 am Garden Clean-up
1 pm Exec. Board
- 11-14 Intl MGCV Conference,
Charleston, WV
- 16 Ferncliff Walk for the Public
- 19 Dine to Donate - all day
Finance 1-3pm
- 20 B&B Deadline
- 24 2-4:30 GLG Mtg. @OSUE
- 26 9 am Final Utzinger Clean up

November

- 7 5:30 pm Recognition Celebration
@ Courtyard by Marriott

President's Message:

Wow! Just finished helping with Farm Science Review at the Utzinger Garden! Lots of great comments about the gardens we maintain and lots of people going through the gardens. Some people are making it their first stop at Farm Science and others are bringing examples of problems they are having to "ask the experts". Others stop to see what trees we are selling. If you haven't seen the gardens lately, you should make it a point to go over there. Congratulations to Cindy for how great it all looks!

Speaking of tree sales, we have a few left if anyone didn't get the opportunity to get over to the Utzinger Gardens. We have a few yellow birch, a few Katsura, plus a few Ohio buckeye trees. Look them up on google and let Cindy Schneider or me know if you would like some. They are grown for us by Secrest Arboretum and are nice trees.

Don't forget to remind your friends that we will be starting a new Master Gardener class next year. It is always so great to meet all of the new people interested in the various aspects of plants and gardening. It will be hard to beat the last class!

We still need a few garden chairs (or co-chairs) for some of our committees. If you are interested, let us know. Also, if you have any place or places you are yearning to visit, let us know as we will be planning some trips soon.

It seems unreal that fall is here already! That means I had better get busy planting! Such a good time of the year to get all of those fall trees and shrubs in! Also, on the nice days, remember to pot up some of those extra plants you have for our plant sale next May!

Thanks to everyone for your enthusiasm at the Buckeye Bash! Never thought I could have that much fun with Ohio State fans, ha, ha! It was GREAT!

As we start dismantling our gardens, take time to save some seeds or take some cuttings. It is always fun to see what you can winter over. By the time this goes to press, you may be interested in knowing that we took part in the Springfield version of the "Amazing Race". Our gardens were used as one of the stops for one of the tasks. We couldn't publicize it because we didn't know if any of you were participating in it and it was supposed to be kept a secret. Thanks to Cindy Valente for connecting us to this event! Also, thanks to those of you who helped with the event. More about this at our next meeting as it involved fundraising.

Hope to see you all soon.

Ruth Ann Rahim

Research shows those who volunteer, live longer!

Pam's Posies



Congratulations to Cindy and Crew for a very successful Farm Science Review. The garden looked spectacular and even prompted a phone call from former First Lady Frances Strickland to tell me how great it looked! Thanks to Carolyn for doing such a great job in getting speakers for the gazebo and Carolyn and Kathy for the entire veggie cutting for Grillin'. Natheta and her volunteers pulled off the incredible feat of designing 75 flower arrangements for the Vice President's luncheon on Tuesday. The Clark County MGVs have a very prominent presence at the Review and should be very proud of these efforts.

Last year at this time I was writing about the horrible damage suffered by Secrest Arboretum from the tornado that went through. This year in August, we donated \$5,000.00 to the renewal effort. This is such an unselfish gesture of kindness on the part of our volunteers. We have a lot of projects in line in our own gardens that could use the money but because of the value of the arboretum and the people who work there, you decided these could wait. Thank you for making me so proud to be a part of the MGV program. I am also proud of all MGVs in Ohio as we contributed a total of \$50,284.00 to the effort. In addition, volunteers from around Ohio, led by Miami County MGV Dan Poast, donated more than 2000 hours to the arboretum in physical assistance. Erik Draper presented Ken Cochran, Director of the Arboretum, with the check at the 1 year anniversary event and it brought Ken to tears. We will eventually have something named in the garden in honor of the Ohio MGVS. Wow, what an incredible accomplishment.

Don't forget that we are in the process of recruiting a new training class. If you have anyone that you know of

who would make a great MGV, let Jo know so that we can send them an application packet. Word of mouth has been our best source of advertising, therefore, get out there and sell the program! In addition, we have lots of brochures that talk about our program that you can take to events, club meetings, organizations, or places of business. Let Carolyn know if you need these.

If you are going to the International MGV Conference, have a safe trip and I will see you there.

The Recognition Celebration is Nov. 7th and I hope to see everyone there to celebrate our successes!

Pam

Pamela J. Bennett
State Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator
Extension Educator, Horticulture
Ohio State University Extension

GATEWAY LEARNING GARDENS

There is a very important meeting for members of the Gateway Learning Gardens and garden committee chairs on October 24 from 2 - 4:30 in the large conference room at the OSU Extension office. We are at the point where we need to tighten up our procedures for garden renovation, budgets, priorities, etc. and will discuss these at this time. In addition, I hope to have the updated landscape design master plan from Eric that we can discuss. We will also talk about our next major priority in the garden. It's very important that garden chairs attend this meeting as I will be discussing some new procedures when it comes to renovating and updating the gardens. Please let me know if you can't make it so that we can have a conversation about the process.

TREE SURVEY

Those of you working on the tree survey have until the leaves fall from the tree to complete your survey. You can take a little longer but take it from me- it gets a little tougher to identify the genus with just the bark, stems, and buds!

Becky Miller has graciously volunteered to enter the data and will begin soon. I will be meeting with Dr. Sydnor, Forestry Specialist who analyzes the data, in October to talk about our next steps. I will also be sharing our experiences with him and Cindy Meyers in Butler County. Her volunteers are about to embark on this process in Hamilton, Ohio. I have heard a lot of great comments about learning and enjoying this project as well as comments and frustrations on some of the challenges! Thanks for your efforts and we will continue next year with the rest of the trees!

Carolyn's Corner

Garden Clean-up

Thanks to all volunteers who kept the gardens looking top notch all summer long. You did a great job with all the sweltering days we had this year. Please check your area of interest and make sure it is free of weeds heading into the fall season. If we tackle them now it means less work in the spring. Especially important are those weeds blooming. If we pull them now before they drop seed it will save us hours of work next summer. So let's get them out!!!! It is a priority now.

The last garden clean-up is Wednesday, October 5 beginning at 9:00 am. We will pull up field trial plants and veggies. If plant tags are left in the ground, we are leaving that cultivar to see if it over winters. From there we will move on to perennial gardens and cut back anything that Kathy wants done. Any time remaining will be spent wherever a garden chair wants help.

If you see an area that is newly planted, we will have planted garlic that we are waiting to arrive. Another plant we are researching to see how it grows and performs in our gardens.

Visit the gardens, pull flowering weeds and then come to garden clean-up and help put the gardens to bed. Remember we have visitors coming to the gardens every day.

Recognition Banquet

You will soon be receiving invitations for the banquet. This is our end of the year celebration and we honor volunteers who have completed milestones in their number of hours, or have risen to the top in their accomplishments, and to recognize everyone for completing another year. It is also a great time to visit with each other and not be doing some garden chore at the same time. We will be taking pictures of any volunteers who wish to update their photo for the directory because we will be redoing the booklet this coming year.

This will be at the Marriott downtown Springfield, and volunteers meals will be free but guests or spouses of volunteers will have to be charged. It is a great time. See you all there.

Need Hours

Contact Carolyn if you are short of hours to recertify. She has end of year chores that you can work on at home.
Carolyn Allen 937.521.3860

Calendar Meeting

Reminder to all Committee Chairs the 2012 Calendar meeting will be November 18 at Panera Bread starting at 9:00 am. Please plan to attend and put all of your events or committee meetings on the calendar at this time. Many of our volunteers use this to plan their schedules and to help work on your projects.

Farm Science Review

Congratulations to the Utzinger Garden crew and their leader, Cindy Schneider for a very successful year. Many renovations were done this year and new plants added. One area that attracted a lot of interest was the swing and the gardens surrounding it. Blackberries were started and a square foot garden was on display. The area around the gazebo and along the back paths also saw some updates. It was another great year.

Many visitors toured the gardens during the Farm Science Review and visited with the volunteers. We gave away a lot of seeds. The Central Ohio Beekeepers were kept very busy by all the people who visited their tent. Many want to start their own hives. They had some of the most ornate and beautiful bee hives ever seen. They want to return next year. Welcome to our group.

The volunteers sold a lot of trees and the grillers couldn't cook fast enough. I rate this a great effort by all and a great time for our visitors.



Spelling Bee

The team of Debbie Dean, Barb Hall, and Cindy Schneider did a fantastic job at the competition. We are proud of you girls. The rest of the volunteers had a great time cheering for them. Hopefully our participation will spread literacy in Clark County. See pictures courtesy of Nancy Best. Great job everyone!!!

Jo's Notes

Thoughts and Prayers

Prayers for our MGVs that are dealing with health issues.

New Email

Ron Kurth has a new email address:
ronkurth@gmail.com
Please update your roster.



Woman's Town Club and MGVs Collaborative Effort Continues:

If you want an elegant dining experience in one of the oldest homes on "Millionaires Row," Woman's Town Club invites you to dine at 805 East High Street prior to the Springfield Symphony performance October 8th.

Serving from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (so that you can get to the Kuss Auditorium in time for the performance) you are sure to be pleased. You may place a reservation for dinner even if not attending the evening's performance.

Dinner (\$25.00) includes full-course dinner, dessert, and a complimentary glass of wine, tax and gratuity.

Reservations must be called to Linda Kuhn
937.325.5667 by Tuesday, October 4th.

Menu

Choice:

- Chicken Cordon Bleu or Pecan –Crusted Talapia
- Jasmine Rice or Cheesy Potatoes
- Bread
- Tossed Salad
- Dessert:
Choice of Apple Pie or Creme Brulee

Parking in rear of home or on street. Learn more about WTC: www.womanstownclub.com

RECOGNITION CELEBRATION

Monday, November 7, 2011 at
Courtyard by Marriott, Springfield, OH
Social & Silent Auction 5:30 p.m.

Start collecting new or gently used, clean items for the annual Silent Auction. Deliver to OSU Extension before or by October 24. Call Karen Neer at 937.568.4212 if you need to bring your item(s) on November 7, and let her know what you are bringing so she can get it listed in the program and on her paperwork. Be creative i.e. services, baked goods, craft items, garden items, honey, etc.

The money raised helps offset the cost of the dinner and it is great FUN!!

Karen Neer



Flower Arrangements by
MGV of Clark County
Farm Science Review for
Vice President Luncheon
Photo courtesy of Deanne
Rucker

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY GARDENS

The gardens are winding down for the season. They have been quite productive this year considering our poor drainage problem, which hopefully will be solved with drainage lines installed this fall.

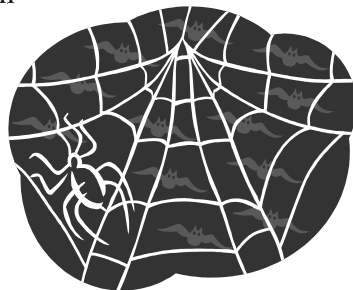
This year to date we have donated to Second Harvest Food Bank 4,276 pounds of produce and Benjamin Steel has added 358 pounds, totaling 4,634 pounds.

We would like to have the Victory Garden all cleaned out by September 30th, so as to have plenty of time to have the drainage installed.

The Community Garden Program went well this summer with the addition of thirteen new gardens making our total at thirty-two community gardens. Starting January 2012 the Way to Grow name will change to S.E.E.D.S. The new name stands for SOW, EDUCATE, EDIBLES, DIVERSITY and SHARE. We also are putting together a brochure about the program. Plans for the future include expanding the Victory Garden to include more 10 x 10 gardens and doing more educational programs.

Many thanks to our wonderful committee, Pam, Carolyn, Jo, Marcus and Krista for their support this year.

Thanks to all Master Gardeners for your support Susie Broidy and Pam Thullen



FAIR FLOWER SHOW

We had our wrap up meeting for the Fair Flower Show on Sept 2, 2011 at Cracker Barrel. We had a turnout of 15 people. We made all the changes for the fair book 2012. Joan Corbitt will take care of the changes to the Fair Board.

Polly and I would like to thank all of those attending. We also want to thank each Master Gardener for your efforts to make this another great flower show. Without your skills and help the show would not happen. Polly and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as co chairs. We will be glad to help the next chairman. Best Wishes for an outstanding show in 2102. Polly Cooper and Madge Morris

UTZINGER GARDENS

Thanks to all of you who made the Utzinger Garden a success at Farm Science Review. I did not hear the attendance for Thursday, but the totals for the first two days were in excess of 100,000! The addition of the beekeepers associations was well received and both plan to rejoin us in the garden next year. Secret Arboretum had a successful t-shirt sale. If any of you need a very unique buckeye tie dye, I have ordering information. The profits are helping to replant the arboretum. Speaking of buckeyes, there are a few remaining from our tree sales. If anyone would like to have a seedling, please see Ruth Ann or me.

The final clean up and putting the garden to bed date is set for Wednesday, October 26. We will take a brief time afterwards to have a wrap up meeting for review. I do not anticipate that this will take us beyond noon. Please make any notes for changes now, and bring them with you on the 26th.

Cindy Schneider



HELPLINE

Thank You all for a great Season and remember: What do you get when you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?

PUMPKIN PIE

Rick McKinstry



PERENNIAL GARDENS

We have certainly had a busy gardening season! Starting with cold and wet in the spring, then straight to hot and dry all summer, we completed the shade garden renovation with your help... many faithful workers, the "arbor guys" and our really good Summer Assistant, Krista Worley. Finally the gardens looked great for our many guests and tours. Thanks so much to all who worked so hard to make these gardens a place that evokes "ooohs and aaahs" and even the occasional water color painter! Next year will bring new weather challenges, new renovation plans and a new Master Gardener Volunteer Training Class to help!

We have a list in the office of some late season tasks for us to complete. There are only two more scheduled garden clean up dates on the calendar and the weather is getting more unpredictable, so take advantage of a nice sunny autumn day and get a jump on volunteer hours for 2012!

Thanks a million!
Kathy McConkey



Happy Birthday to...

Susie Broidy	1st
Patrick Casey	1st
Ed Jenkins	5th
Judy Niggemeyer	7th
Cheryl Shively	15th
Ed Wozniak	18th
Natheta Mercer	31st
Ruth Ann Rahim	31st

SPELLING BEE PICTURES



MGV Spellers

Barb Hall, Cindy Schneider and Debbie Dean



MGV Rooters

PLANT OF THE MONTH:

SNAPDRAGON ANTIRRHINUM (an-tir-RYE-num)



You can easily recognize snapdragons by their spikes of unique flowers. The tubular blooms seem to have a pouting lower lip until you lightly pinch the sides, then they quickly open as if it was a dragon ready to snap off your finger. This feature seems to fascinate both young and old alike.

Snapdragons are easy to grow and have a long bloom season. These plants are offered as annuals, but are actually tender perennials. You can sow these plants outdoors in spring as soon as the ground is workable but you will lose half their blooming season. Instead, start them indoors about 8 to 10 weeks before the last frost date. Sprinkle the seed over the growing mix, but do not cover! Mist the tray lightly and expose the tray to light to start germination. First seedlings should appear in 10 to 21 days. When seedlings have 4 to 6 leaves, pinch the stem tips lightly to encourage bushy growth. Water carefully, preferably from below and avoid overwatering. Plant outdoors 2 to 3 weeks before your last frost date; these plants can take relatively heavy frosts without complaint.

I usually cut off the seed heads in the fall and let them fall on the ground. I don't do anything special and in the spring I have new plants coming up. You can then either transplant or leave them where they are growing. If you buy plants, look for healthy, dense, leafy growth. Snapdragons planted already in bloom tend to fade after the first flowering. For good long-term results, remove all the flower spikes at planting time. Deadhead regularly in the garden, and cut off flower spikes when the last few flowers are opening to stimulate rebloom.

These plants bloom in colors of pink, purple, red, orange, yellow, white, and bicolor. They bloom in summer through fall in heights of 6 to 36 inches. Plant them in full sun or partial shade. They like humus-rich, moist but well drained, neutral to very acid soil. The plants will attract bees and hummingbirds. You can use the plants in your containers, for cut flowers, as an edging, in mass plantings, in a mixed border, and in rock gardens. The taller varieties can help offset the postbloom of lady's mantle and perennial geraniums.

Rust can sometimes be a problem. Look for resistant cultivars and avoid overhead watering. If rust has been a problem, avoid planting in the same place two years in a row. I like these plants because I've found them easy to grow, they provide a vertical accent, are tolerant of colder temperatures, are nice in flower arrangements, and are usually problem free.

Dot Burkholder

"Crispy air and azure skies,
High above, a white cloud flies,
Bright as newly fallen snow.
Oh the joy to those who know, October!"

Colors bright on bush and tree.
Over the weedy swamp, we see
A veil of purple and brown and gold.
Thy beauty words have never told. October!"

Scolding sparrows on the lawn,
Rabbits frisking home at dawn,
Pheasants midst the sheaves of grain,
All in harmony acclaim, October!"

Brown earth freshly turned by plow,
Apples shine on bended bough,
Bins o'erflowed with oats and wheat,
And satisfaction reigns complete. October!"

Radiant joy is everywhere.
Spirits in tune to the spicy air,
Thrill in the glory of each day.
Life's worth living when we say, October!"

- Joseph Pullman Porter

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Springfield, OH 45502-6330

Garden Clean Up
Wednesday, October 5, 2011
9 to Noon



The Master Gardener “Blades & Blooms” is a publication of the Clark County Extension Office, 4400 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 104, Springfield, Ohio, 45502, 937-521-3860. The Master Gardener Advisor is Pam Bennett.

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