

# Blades and Blooms

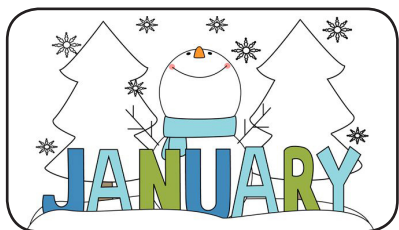


Master Gardeners of Clark County  
PO Box 158, Springfield, Ohio 45501-0158

Volume 31 Number 01 January 2024

*Wingert Tossey Pavilion in its  
Christmas finery for 2023.*

*MGVs decorating the pavilion  
with green wreaths, bows,  
garland and lights.*



## Mark Your Calendar

- |    |                              |  |
|----|------------------------------|--|
| 9  | 10 am - 12 pm<br>1 pm - 3 pm | Perennial Cmte. Meeting; Zoom<br>Docent Training; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm. |
| 10 | 5:30 pm                      | MGV General Meeting; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm.                              |
| 12 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm               | Beginner's Beekeeping Class; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm.                      |
| 13 | 9 am - 3 pm                  | Beginner's Beekeeping Class; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm.                      |
| 16 | 1 pm - 3 pm                  | Plant Sale Cmte. Meeting; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm.                         |
| 17 | 1:30 - 3:30 pm               | Rotary Garden Meeting; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm.                            |
| 19 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm               | Beginner's Beekeeping Class <i>Snow Date</i> ; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm.    |
| 20 | 9 am - 3 pm                  | Beginner's Beekeeping Class <i>Snow Date</i> ; OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm.    |



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# President's Message

January 2024! Happy New Year to you and your family. Time for resolutions, new beginnings, snowy and cold days and arrival of seed catalogs.

I am starting my term as your President and look forward to the challenges and fun that are ahead. I am so proud to be part of this hard-working group. Committees already have plans in mind for the coming year. We have so much to look forward to.

The thirtieth year of Clark County Master Gardener Volunteers ended with an awesome Recognition Dinner. I have heard many positive comments about that evening. Well-deserved accolades and rewards were received. And SWAGS....such a great project. I was able to help at the Cancer Center and see the impact on those who received our gifts.

We are gearing up for a new class of Interns. Classes will begin on Wednesday, February 7 and will be held at the Extension Office. We will be asking for MGv assistance to be monitors and mentors for our new class. Please get involved and get to know our new class.

As we look forward to this year as Master Gardener Volunteers, contemplating new possibilities, sometimes dreaming big, sharing a laugh or two, I wish you all joy, good health, and continued friendship.

Happy New Year to All,  
Christi Lockhart, President

*Christi Lockhart showing off her finished swag for the Wingert Tossey Pavilion.*



## Pam's Posies

***Pam's Posies is on hiatus. Be back next month!***

### Happy New Year Master Gardener Volunteers!

Just a reminder to start the year:

If you have not recertified, please do so in Hands On Connect **ASAP**. Recertification is **required** annually for MGVs to remain in good standing.

Here is the tutorial for how to enter hours in HoC:

<https://mastergardener.osu.edu/sites/mgv/files/imce/EnterHrsHOC.pdf>

Here is the tutorial for how to recertify in HoC:

[https://mastergardener.osu.edu/sites/mgv/files/imce/Recertify\\_0.pdf](https://mastergardener.osu.edu/sites/mgv/files/imce/Recertify_0.pdf)

Please reach out to Beth if you need assistance with entering hours or recertifying.

Our dues for this year are the same as last year, thirty dollars (\$30.00). You can bring the check on Wednesday to the general meeting, mail it to our post office box or put it in the Dropbox at the extension office. If you want to mail it, our address is:

Master Gardeners of Clark County  
P. O. Box 158  
Springfield, Ohio 45501

Looking forward to another great year.  
Geo (and Beth)

Dear MGVs,

Before the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, Judy Finnegan and I are having a Silent Auction of knitted items that I am hoping to send on to new homes. There are many scarves, shawls, hats plus a few sweaters. Each of these items will be available to bid on at 4:30 pm in the small conference room. When the auction is over at 5:30 pm, Judy and I will determine the highest bid on each of the items and tally up the total each purchaser owes. After the meeting, check back with us to see if yours is the highest bid on any of the items. If so, make your donation to Clark County MGVs and take your new knits home.

Hopefully this will add a little cash to MGVs bank account and I will have more room in my closets. If the items do not find new homes, they will be donated to a local charity or Goodwill.

Linda McCann and Judy Finnegan





# WHAT'S GROWING ON

## New trees at SPGA!



1



2



3



4



5

6 *Cercis canadensis* 'Pink Heartbreaker' Redbud are located along the newest sidewalk that goes from the Wingert Tossey Pavilion to the service road.  
pics 1 and 3

3 *Platanus x acerifolia* 'Morton Circle' Exclamation!® Planetree are located closer to the railroad tracks and back almost across from the white barn and garages.  
pic 2

6 *Gymnocladus dioica* 'Morton' Skinny Latte™ Kentucky Coffee Tree are located along the dog park fence.  
pic 4

3 *Sorbus aucuparia* 'Michred' Cardinal Royal® Mountain Ash are located just north of the Children's Garden.  
Pic 5

Beth Brooks



4th Jody Frisby  
8th Diane Catenacci  
8th Pam Thullen  
8th Vicky Ross  
16th Susan Kogler  
17th Mary Ellen Martin  
26th Fabenne Brandenburg  
26th Fred Miller  
26th Lola Walston



# **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **GREENHOUSE/FIELD TRIALS**

### **COMMITTEE**

The Mitchell Greenhouse training will be held on Wednesday, January 24th, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in the large conference room at the OSU extension. Master Gardener Volunteers that have signed up for the Mitchell Greenhouse committee **should** attend, so you can sign up for work days and know the procedures to follow in the greenhouse. An email will be sent in mid-January as a reminder.

Also, the greenhouse cleaning date is Tuesday, January 30th from 9 until noon at 1515 Mitchell Blvd. Please join us at the Mitchell greenhouse to clean and to get it ready for our 2024 All-America Selection seeds/plugs. Any Master Gardener Volunteer is welcome to help prepare the greenhouse for the 2024 season. Bring your own **rubber gloves** and hand weeding tools. There may be weeds in the aisles that need to be cleaned out. We have rags and scrub brushes. Also, we plan to replace the weed barrier under the tables on the west side of the greenhouse.

Hope to see you there!

Contact Theresa Gregory at [mstgregy@woh.rr.com](mailto:mstgregy@woh.rr.com) or text 937-206-7879 with any questions.

The Mitchell Greenhouse chairs, Linda McCann, Rosalind Soles, Karen Parsons, Joyce Watson and Theresa Gregory



*Mitchell Greenhouse*



*Gatherings about Gardens* cont. from pg. 6

#### **REGARDING JANUARY:**

"Anyone who thinks that gardening begins in the Spring and ends in the Fall is missing the best part of the whole year. For gardening begins in January with the dream."

~~ Josephine Neuse

"The shortest day has passed, and whatever nastiness of weather we may look forward to in January and February, at least we notice that the days are getting longer. Minute by minute they lengthen out. It takes some weeks before we become aware of the change. It is imperceptible even as the growth of a child, as you watch it day by day, until the moment comes when with a start of delighted surprise we realize that we can stay out of doors in a twilight lasting for another quarter of a precious hour."

~~ Vita Sackville-West

"To shorten winter, borrow some money due in spring."

~~ W.J. Vogel

"The twelve months...

Snowy, Flowy, Blowy,  
Showery, Flowery, Bowery,  
Hoppy, Croppy, Droppy,  
Breezy, Sneezzy, Freezy."

~~ George Ellis

#### **AND LASTLY,**

**Was thinking of purchasing some vacant real estate near my house so my wife could begin gardening after the holiday season.**

But she said "I don't want a lot for Christmas."

#### **I'm kinda new to gardening...**

Someone suggested I put horse manure on my strawberries.

Well, I'm never doing that again...I'll just stick to whipped cream!

Til next time, Judy Finnegan





## Backyard News

Did you know the US News and World Report listed Youngstown, Ohio as the most affordable place to retire in the U.S. in their list for 2024? Toledo made the list at number nine. To quote the report, "The study included data about housing affordability, happiness, desirability, retiree taxes, the job market and access to quality health care." Those of us who call Ohio home are familiar with its many charms and could probably add more qualities to the list. Ohio often appears on this type of list, but here's a quote I've never seen: "And the weather is great!"

I think Ohio gets a bum wrap on weather. We are blessed with four distinct seasons, each offering a particular kind of beauty. But ours is a weather of "too's". In the winter, we may have too much cold or snow; in the spring, too much rain; in the summer, too much heat and humidity, in the fall too dry. But oh, the beauty. Who hasn't looked out on a snowy day and marveled at our cardinals, bright red against a layer of snow; or smiled in delight when the crocuses, tulips and flowering trees burst forth in springtime? And not a state in the union can hold a candle to our summers – lush and green, with fields and gardens bursting with flowers and produce. There's a reason we have so many wonderful Master Gardeners in Ohio! When summer's bounty has exhausted us, we have fall's rich beauty to delight us. Don't tell me Ohio has lousy weather..... at least not all the time.

Ohio's weather is like life, with its great joys and sometimes formidable challenges. It has molded us into the Ohioans we are: resilient, hardworking, friendly, compassionate. It teaches us to ride life's ups and downs, to adapt to life's changes as we adapt to the weather.

So on a lovely El Nino December afternoon, Husband Tom and I found ourselves working in the wetland. Weather permitting, this is a great time to work outside. We're not distracted by other seasonal activities, and the bugs and poison ivy are fast asleep. We spent this particular afternoon picking up debris piles left after VTF Construction removed some very old fencing. We talked about leaving some brush piles for wildlife, but there was an abundance of fruit on the old honeysuckle and floribunda rose bushes. Leaving the piles felt like an opportunity for these invasives to spread.

As we clean up the fence rows we will look for opportunities to create brush piles. They provide habitat for everything from rabbits and fox to amphibians and reptiles. They also provide food for the soil as they break down. Think about it, a pile of debris can be a great thing!

I'll close with this thought. When I began this article, I really wasn't sure where it would take me. But unlike a lot of states, here in Ohio we have a ready made subject to talk about, think about, write

about: our ever-changing, always fascinating, Ohio weather!

May your dreams be filled with sunny days and thoughts of gardening,

Happy Gardening!  
Susan Miller



*As Honeysuckle recedes, Red Osier Dogwood thrives*



*Honeysuckle berries-a beautiful scourge.*



*Fence holds against nighttime visitor.*

## Gatherings about Gardens

Excerpted from **LEARNING TO LOVE LATIN, The language of gardening** by Sheelagh Mooney; *GreenPrints* 2021

Horticulture study covers a broad range of subjects. I unexpectedly fell in love with one in particular—a module on plant identification. Having never studied Latin at school, I was captivated when I started to grasp its significance for helping a person choose plants. If, like me, you have ever bought plant on a whim without first looking at the name on the label or considering the suitability of your soil type only to watch them wither and die (and let's face it, who hasn't?), you will come to appreciate how understanding the *name* of a plant can save you a lot of subsequent disappointment. This is a vernacular worth delving into.

So, what do you need to know? First, understand that the binomial classification system is a universal tool used by gardeners to group plants according to their botanical similarities. This system was developed by the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus and is still used by most plant people throughout the world. Although primarily in Latin, it incorporates occasional Greek because the first plant identification and naming work was done in ancient Greek. The binomial system confers a surname, the *genus*, and a first, *species*, name on each plant in that order. Sometimes a pronunciation can seem daunting, but don't let fear of embarrassment deter you. Just say it with confidence. You only need to tune into the array of gardening programs in different countries to hear the wide variation in pronunciations.

I became convinced of the beauty and usefulness of Latin plant names when I realized that a lot of information about a plant is contained within the name itself. This was something of a turning point for me: I used to be content if I could recall the common name of the plant. Truth be told, in a case of inverted snobbery, I considered the use of Latin names as something of an affectation, so I missed out on all the useful information that botanical Latin bestows on gardeners. Some is reasonably self-evident, for example, *aromatic* or *fragrans* even *obesus*, *rotundatus*, *pendulous*, or *aquaticus* need little translation. Others are less obvious but no less useful, such as *palustris*—grown in marshes; *montanus*—of the mountains; and *riparius*—of banks or rivers. Following that line of thought, it should come as no surprise to you that a *maritimus* will do best by the sea and that an *aridus* enjoys a well-drained soil. If, like mine, your garden is wet and marshy, then anything with *palustris* in its name will reward you by thriving there.

Another example: if you have only a small garden, a plant name containing *giganteus*, *grandi-* or *macro-* should be a red flag. Indeed, had my poor father



known the small bareroot *Cupressus macrocarpa* whips he innocently planted by the public roadway in the 1970s would grow over 30 meters tall, dwarfing all around them, he might have saved a fortune in tree surgeon fees decades later!

If growing edible plants is your thing, know that *edulis* means edible, *esculens*

implies that it is tasty, while *dulcis* simply means it is sweet. Without any admission of guilt on the part of this author, do be aware that planting the attractive statement tree *Arbutus unedo* will not provide you with the ingredients for dessert—despite its common name of strawberry bush. Enough said on that!

Having some idea of the shapes of mature plants is hugely valuable when designing a garden. You may have figured out by studying the leaf that a *palmatus* is palm- or hand-shaped, but did you know that *antirrhinum* means like a nose, while *auriculatas* is ear-shaped? Anything with *dendatus* in its name will be toothed, usually in its leaf outline. If you want something small-leaved, look for a *microphyllus*. Conversely, seek out a *macrophyllus* if you want a large-leaved specimen.

Want to ensure color all year round? Know then that *praecox* means flowers early in Spring, *aestivalis* in Summer, *autumalis* Autumn, and *brumalis* in Winter.

Once you start paying attention to those labels, you will quickly and advantageously learn to avoid plants with *infestus* in the name—and that the *terminalis* in a name like *Pachysandra terminalis* actually means it's an indefinite spreader! While a small amount of *pungens* can stoke curiosity, you'd do best to avoid *olidus* or *foetidus*—at least in close proximity to your house. If only I'd known this when I planted my lovely dark green *Helleborus foetidus* beside the back door! A very attractive addition to the garden in Spring, it bestows a stench we try to tolerate when the flowers fade. Other Latin names that have long been adopted into English convey to us that an *elegantissima* or *callistus* ("most beautiful") will grace the garden beautifully, while a *mirandus* (to be marvelled at) will make an extraordinary statement wherever you plant it.

So next time you head off to the garden center, **(or are browsing through the colorful garden catalogues arriving in your mailbox/JF)** read those labels carefully. It pays untold dividends not to confuse your *minimus* with your *maximus* or your *olidus* with your *aromaticus*! Better still, take a course in botanical plant identification. You might end up, like me, becoming a secret Latin lover!

**Gatherings about Gardens** cont. on pg. 4



**MGVs busy decorating the Wingert Tossey Pavilion, placing new planters in front of the clubhouse and sharing cookies at the Cookie Exchange.**





**More decorations for the Wingert Tossey Pavilion, fun at the Cookie Exchange and Tom Miller (on the right) with the other recipients of the Golden Ironman award.**





# Master Gardener Volunteers of Clark County



## BASIC BEEKEEPING

*Presented by:* Master Gardener Volunteers of Clark County (MGV CE Credits = 7 hrs.)



MASTER BEEKEEPERS FRAN & TOM



TOM DEMONSTRATING HIVE COVER INSULATION

Join Fran and Tom Davidson for a 7-hour course about the amazing hobby/ business of beekeeping. The multimedia course is a fascinating exploration of honeybee biology and the challenging relationship between the honeybee and the modern beekeeper. The course is designed for beginning beekeepers to successfully install and raise bees in the first year and beyond. Tom and Fran are certified Master Gardener Volunteers and UFIFAS certified Master Beekeepers. They maintain 45 bee colonies in Clark County and have operated 'Golden Queen Honey' as a successful local beekeeping operation for 14 years.

**Registration Checks will be returned if class capacity is reached.**

**When:** Friday, January 12, 2024, 6:30-8:30PM & Saturday, January 13, 2024, 9AM-3PM  
Bring or locally buy your own Lunch Saturday (1 hour break 12 -1 PM)

**Where:** Ohio State University Extension, Clark County Office,  
3130 East Main Street, Springfield, OH 45505

**Cost:** \$40 per person with textbook: "Bee-Sentials" by Connor & Muir.  
\$25 without textbook (includes comprehensive notebook)

**Register by: January 10, 2023:** Complete application & return with check to:

**Tom & Fran Davidson, 10131 West National Road., New Carlisle, OH 45344**

**Attn: Basic Beekeeping (Make check to: [Master Gardener Volunteers of Clark County](#))**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **@** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tom Davidson (937-271-4023) Fran Davidson (937-609-0956) WEB: [Steady72@aol.com](mailto:Steady72@aol.com)**



# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## EXTENSION

Ohio State University Extension  
Clark County  
3130 East Main Street  
Springfield, OH 45505



***MGVs Joyce Watson and Kim Bachman  
with their baskets of Christmas cookies  
from the MGVs Cookie Exchange.***



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